



FAA relents, says it grounded 737 Max jets based on new data

WASHINGTON (AP) — As country after country grounded Boeing's 737 Max jets after a deadly crash Sunday in Ethiopia, U.S. air safety regulators remained resolute in their refusal to do so — until Wednesday. That's when the Federal Aviation Administration issued an emergency order keeping the planes on the tarmac. The agency said what made the difference was new, enhanced satellite tracking data and physical evidence on the ground that linked the Ethiopian jet's movements to those of an Indonesian Lion Air flight that plunged into the Java Sea in October and killed 189 people. "That evidence aligns the Ethiopian flight closer to Lion Air, what we know happened to Lion Air," said Daniel Elwell, acting FAA administrator. Officials at

Lion Air have said sensors on their plane produced erroneous information on its last four flights, triggering an automatic nose-down command that the pilots were unable to overcome on its final voyage. The FAA was under intense pressure to ground the planes and resisted even after Canada on Wednesday joined more than 40 countries, including the European Union and China, in barring the Max from the air, leaving the U.S. almost alone. The agency, which prides itself on making data-driven decisions, had maintained there was nothing to show the Boeing jets were unsafe, and flights continued. But President Donald Trump, who announced the grounding, was briefed Wednesday on new developments by Elwell and



A worker walks past an avionics truck parked next to a Boeing 737 MAX 8 airplane being built for TUI Group at Boeing Co.'s Renton Assembly Plant Wednesday, March 13, 2019, in Renton, Wash. Associated Press

Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao, and they determined the planes should

be grounded, the White House said. Trump spoke afterward with Boeing CEO

Dennis Muilenberg and Boeing signed on. Continued on Page 3



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U.S. plans tests this year of long-banned types of missiles



President Donald Trump speaks during a briefing on drug trafficking at the southern border in the Roosevelt Room of the White House, Wednesday, March 13, 2019, in Washington.

Associated Press

By ROBERT BURNS

AP National Security Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon plans to begin flight tests this year of two types of missiles that have been banned for more than 30 years by a treaty from which both the United States and Russia are expected to withdraw in August, defense officials said Wednesday.

By moving forward with these missile projects, the Pentagon is not excluding the possibility that the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty could still sur-

vive, although it likely will be terminated in August. At that point, Washington and Moscow would no longer face legal constraints on deploying land-based cruise or ballistic missiles with ranges between 500 and 5,500 kilometers (310 to 3,410 miles). The INF treaty has been in effect since 1987.

The INF treaty was an arms control landmark in the final years of the Cold War, but it began unraveling several years ago when Washington accused Russia of developing, testing and, more recently, deploying a cruise missile that U.S. officials say violates the treaty. Russia denies the violation and contends the U.S. accusation is a ploy to destroy the treaty.

Intermediate-range weapons are regarded as particularly destabilizing because of the short time they take to reach a target.

When he announced on Feb. 1 that the U.S. would pull the plug on the INF treaty, President Donald Trump said his administration would "move forward" with developing a military response to Russia's alleged violations. He was not specific, but defense officials on Wednesday spelled out a plan for developing two non-INF compliant, non-nuclear missiles.

The officials, who spoke to a small group of reporters under Pentagon ground rules that did not permit use of their names or titles, said one project is a low-flying cruise missile with a potential range of about 1,000 kilometers; the other would

be a ballistic missile with a range of roughly 3,000 to 4,000 kilometers. Neither would be nuclear armed, the officials said.

The U.S. cruise missile is likely to be flight-tested in August, one official said, adding that it might be ready for deployment within 18 months. The longer-range ballistic missile is expected to be tested in November, with deployment not likely for five years or more, the official said. If Russia and the U.S. were to reach a deal to rescue the INF treaty before August, these projects would not go forward.

The cruise missile recalls a nuclear-armed U.S. weapon that was deployed in Britain and several other European NATO countries in the 1980s, along with Pershing 2 ground-based ballistic missiles, in response to a buildup of Soviet SS-20 missiles targeting Western Europe. With the signing of the INF treaty, those missiles were withdrawn and destroyed.

The defense officials said U.S. allies in Europe and Asia have not yet been consulted about deploying either new missile on their territory. NATO is currently studying the implications of the demise of the INF treaty and possible military responses.

One defense official said it was possible that the intermediate-range ballistic missile could be deployed on Guam, a U.S. territory, which would be close enough to Asia to pose a potential threat to China and Russia. □





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FAA RELENTS

Continued from Front

"At the end of the day, it is a decision that has the full support of the secretary, the president and the FAA as an agency," Elwell said. While early satellite tracking data showed similarities between the Ethiopian jet's flight path and Lion Air, Elwell said the FAA was skeptical of the low-resolution images. The data showed movements that weren't consistent with how airplanes fly, Elwell said.

On Wednesday, global air traffic surveillance company Aireon, Boeing and the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board were able to enhance the initial data and make it more precise "to create a description of the flight that made it similar enough to Lion Air," Elwell said.

He wouldn't detail the evidence found on the ground, saying the FAA is a party to the ongoing investigation.

The U.S. also grounded a larger version of the plane, the Max 9.

The Ethiopian plane's flight data and voice recorders were to be sent to France Wednesday night for analysis, Elwell said. Some aviation experts have warned that finding answers in that crash, which killed 157 people, could take months.

Airlines, mainly Southwest, American and United, should be able to swap out planes pretty quickly, and passengers shouldn't be terribly inconvenienced, said Paul Hudson, president of flyersrights.org, which represents passengers. The Max, he said, makes up only a small percentage of the U.S. passenger jet fleet,

he said.

"I think any disruptions will be very minor," he said. Sharon Barnes, a passenger at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, said she agreed with grounding the planes. "I think it was the right decision given that the rest of the world is doing the same thing, and it's a prudent thing to be doing until we know more about what's going on," she said. Michael Fortman, picking up wife at the Seattle airport, wondered why the planes could pass all tests to be flying, yet they now have been grounded.

"Did it really go through all the testing or not, or just stuff afterward that they're finding out about the plane?" Fortman asked. Boeing issued a statement saying it supported the FAA's decision even though it "continues to have full confidence" in the planes' safety.

The company also said it had recommended the suspension of the Max fleet after consultations with the government.

The groundings will have a far-reaching financial impact on Boeing, at least in the short term, said John Cox, a veteran pilot and CEO of Safety Operating Systems. In addition to those that have already been grounded, there are more than 4,600 Boeing 737 Max 8 planes on backlog that are not yet delivered to airlines. "There are delivery dates that aren't being met, there's usage of the aircraft that's not being met, and all the supply chain things that Boeing so carefully crafted," Cox said. Even so, Boeing will recover, because planes typi-

cally fly for up to 40 years, and any needed fix will be made quickly, he said.

Shares in Chicago-based Boeing ended up \$1.73 or about 0.5 percent, at \$377.14 Wednesday after they lost more than 11 percent in the first two days this week. The stock is still up 17 percent for the year.

The growing number of countries joining the ban put the FAA in a difficult position, said Peter Goelz, a former managing director of the NTSB who is now an aviation consultant. He said the FAA, which certified the 737 Max as airworthy and has been the lead regulatory body for the airplane. □



Workers walk down stairs from a Boeing 737 MAX 8 airplane being built for American Airlines at Boeing Co.'s Renton assembly plant, Wednesday, March 13, 2019, in Renton, Wash.

Associated Press

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Senate confirms White House official Rao for appeals court



In this Feb. 5, 2017 file photo, Neomi Rao, President Donald Trump's nominee for a seat on the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals, appears before the Senate Judiciary Committee for her confirmation hearing, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press

By **MATTHEW DALY** Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate on Wednesday confirmed President Don-

ald Trump's nominee to replace Brett Kavanaugh on a high-profile appeals court, despite concerns about her past writings on

sexual assault.

White House official Neomi Rao won confirmation to a seat on the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit on a straight party-line vote, 53-46. No Republican opposed Rao, and no Democrat supported her. Rao, 45, heads the White House Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, where she plays a key role in Trump's efforts to roll back federal rules and regulations. She also worked in the George W. Bush White House but has never tried a case in state or federal court.

Trump nominated Rao for the seat left vacant when Kavanaugh joined the Supreme Court last fall. Lawmakers from both par-

ties expressed concerns about her past writings, particularly on date rape and other sexual assault. As a Yale undergraduate Rao suggested that intoxicated women were partly responsible for date rape. She also criticized affirmative action and questioned equal rights for women and gay people.

Rao has distanced herself from language she used as a college student, saying at her confirmation hearing that she cringes at some of the language she used in opinion articles she said were intended to be provocative.

Sen. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, who recently revealed she was raped in college, called Rao's 1990's opinion pieces "absolutely abhorrent and reprehensible at best," but said she was reassured after Rao wrote a letter to senators repudiating her past views.

Ernst and other Republicans said Rao was qualified despite her lack of courtroom experience. Rao's work on federal regulations qualifies her for the District of Columbia circuit, which handles many administrative appeals of executive branch actions, Ernst said. But she and other Republicans said they might view Rao differently if she is nominated to the Supreme Court.

Rao, widely seen as a future candidate for the high court, is a member of the conservative Federalist Society. The legal policy group has played a key role in Trump's judicial nominations, including Kavanaugh's elevation to the high court.

Democrats staunchly opposed Rao, citing her lack of trial experience and publicly stated pride at rolling back federal rules on Trump's behalf. Rao said at

her confirmation hearing that she and Trump have successfully pushed deregulation that "gets government out of the way" and helps small businesses and other companies create jobs.

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., called Rao "an outstanding choice" to serve on the District of Columbia Circuit, widely considered the nation's second-most important federal court, below only the Supreme Court.

"She is an expert on administrative law and has a sound, conservative judicial philosophy that one would expect from a Republican nominee for such an important position," Graham said.

But California Sen. Dianne Feinstein, the panel's top Democrat, said Rao has a "troubling and aggressive record" on deregulation, particularly on rules that protect health and the environment. As head of the regulatory office, Rao "has taken a buzz saw to protections for women's health and for sexual assault victims on college campuses," added Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore. Illinois Sen. Dick Durbin, the second-ranking Democrat, said Rao has "minimal practical experience in the law" and legal views that are "beyond extreme."

Addressing Trump from the Senate floor, Durbin asked: "Isn't there a good Republican conservative somewhere who's actually been in a courtroom, actually made an appearance in a case, maybe even tried a case or filed a motion and would know a courthouse if they saw it and on not on TV? Is that too much to ask for a lifetime appointment to the second-highest court in the land?" □

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'Epic' storm brings blizzards, floods, tornado to mid-U.S.

By BOB MOEN and DAN ELIOTT

Associated Press

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) — A window-rattling late winter storm brought blizzards, floods and a tornado across more than 25 states Wednesday, stretching from the northern Rocky Mountains to Texas and beyond.

"This is a very epic cyclone," said Greg Carbin, chief of forecast operations for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Weather Prediction Center. "We're looking at something that will go down in the history books."

In Colorado, a state patrol officer was hit and killed by a car as he was helping another driver who slid off Interstate 76 near Denver. Corporal Daniel Groves, 52, was outside his patrol car when he was struck. He died at a hospital.

Hundreds of drivers were stranded on Colorado highways, including 500 in the Colorado Springs area alone. Gov. Jared Polis activated the National Guard to help find and rescue snowbound drivers.

Scores of motorists took refuge at truck stops in eastern Wyoming while blowing snow forced portions of major highways to close in Colorado, Nebraska and South Dakota.

Bria McKenzie, 22, said she and her mother, brother and sister were stuck in their car for more than two hours on a hilly road in Colorado Springs.

The snow was blinding and numbing, and the wind was whipping so hard she didn't feel safe walking to a hospital just down the road, she said.

"We thought about it, well maybe we'll run over to the hospital — at least we'll be warm," she said. "But we were soaking wet already just from trying to keep the windshield clear and from trying to push our car and help other people push their cars. It was just like every second you were out there, it felt like parts of you were just freezing."

McKenzie said they were eventually rescued by her



A man crosses Crow Creek during a blizzard on Wednesday, March 13, 2019, in Cheyenne, Wyo. Associated Press

father in his pickup truck. Hundreds of flights were canceled at Denver International Airport, and nearly 40 were grounded in Colorado Springs.

"It caught me completely off guard," said Sarah Brin of Santa Fe, New Mexico, who was stranded at the Denver airport.

It was supposed to be a brief layover on her flight home from the South by Southwest Film Festival in Austin, Texas, but it turned into an overnight stay.

She booked a room in a downtown hotel and reserved a spot on a shuttle van, but some shuttle trips were canceled because of the weather.

"We'll see if they actually show up," she said.

Many schools and government offices closed for the day. Xcel Energy said high winds caused about 184,000 homes and businesses to lose electricity, mostly in the Denver area. Xcel spokesman Mark Stutz said zero visibility made conditions difficult for repair workers, and it could take days to restore power to everyone.

In North Texas, severe thunderstorms damaged buildings and flipped over small planes parked at an airport.

Flooding forced evacuations in northeast Nebraska and western Iowa, including a retirement home in Pierce, Nebraska. Residents of Avoca, Iowa, were filling

sandbags to keep floodwaters from spreading, and the American Red Cross set up a shelter for anyone who was displaced.

Parts of seven states were under blizzard warnings, and 20 states were under some level of high wind alert, Carbin said.

A tornado in New Mexico ripped roofs from buildings in the small town of Dexter, about 200 miles (320 kilometers) southwest of Albuquerque. Authorities said five people were hurt, but none of the injuries were life-threatening. A dairy euthanized about 150 cows injured by the tornado.

Chaves County Sheriff Mike Herrington said the tornado "took out" about 10 homes on one street.

High winds knocked 25 railroad freight cars off a bridge into a mostly dry riv-

erbed near Logan in northeast New Mexico. No one was injured, New Mexico State Police said.

A wind gust of 92 mph (148 kph) was recorded in the mountains northwest of Denver.

The storm was expected to drop up to 22 inches (56 centimeters) of snow in Wyoming, 14 inches (36 centimeters) in South Dakota and a foot (31 centimeters) in Colorado.

Forecasters said the winds would pile snow into deep drifts.

The culprit was a sudden and severe drop in ground-level air pressure in Colorado, the most pronounced since 1950, Carbin said. It was caused by a combination of the jet stream and normal conditions in the wind shadow of the Rockies. □

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States weigh bans on shackling jailed moms during childbirth

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Michelle Aldana gave birth to her first child chained to a hospital bed.

Then serving time at the Utah state prison on a drug charge, she says she labored through the difficult 2001 birth for nearly 30 hours, her ankles bleeding as the shackles on both her legs and one arm dug in. "I felt like a farm animal," she says.

The practice of keeping inmates shackled during childbirth was once common around the United States, but that's gradually been changing after women began speaking out, with 22 states passing laws against it over the past two decades.

Utah and at least three other states are considering joining them this year, after the federal government recently banned the practice with a sweeping criminal justice reform law. Many other states have policies against shackling, but advocates say that without a law it's harder to stop a practice they condemn as dangerous and inhumane.

Women are America's fast-growing segment of prisoners. The American Civil Liberties Union estimates about 12,000 pregnant women are incarcerated in U.S. jails or prisons each year.

"For me, it's just a funda-



In this Feb. 27, 2019, photo, Michelle Aldana is shown at the Utah State Capitol in Salt Lake City. Associated Press

mental issue of dignity," said Democratic state Rep. Stephanie Pitcher, who is sponsoring the Utah measure. "A woman deserves dignity in childbirth."

Though the state prison changed its official policy to prohibit shackling in 2015, Pitcher has heard from a number of Utah doctors who have treated incarcerated women having babies in shackles, some as recently as this year. Her bill, which would apply to both the prison and local jails, passed the state House and is being considered by the Senate. The practice is an outgrowth of policies requiring all prisoners to be restrained

during medical treatment for safety, said Amy Fettig, deputy director of the National Prison Project at the ACLU.

But childbirth is different, she said. Preventing a woman from moving during labor increases the risk of potentially life-threatening health risks inherent in childbirth, like blood clots. It also makes it harder to move her if there is an emergency, or feed the baby after it's born.

Meanwhile, the physical conditions of labor make escape attempts unlikely, and there are no documented cases of a woman getting away while having a child, Fettig said.

Still, some have raised safety concerns. In Utah, Republican Rep. Eric Hutchins has pointed out that violent incidents happen often in state prisons, and hospitals have far less built-in security.

He ultimately voted in favor of the bill, which does allow some shackling during transportation and the use of soft restraints if an inmate is documented to be dangerous. Prison officials are also in support, and say their policy change means women like Aldana are treated differently today. Most other states without laws against shackling do have policies in place, but without strict controls, the

practice is hard to stamp out, said Lauryn King, a public-policy Ph.D. student at The George Washington University who completed a state-by-state analysis of laws on the topic.

"What are the odds that without specific training, your average corrections officer knows every policy?" she said. In New York, for example, a report found the practice continued even after a law was passed.

In Wisconsin, a woman said in a lawsuit she was shackled with a chain so short that she couldn't reach the stirrups during labor in February 2014. Tennessee and Arkansas have faced similar lawsuits and are weighing bans on the practice this year, along with South Carolina.

In Utah, Aldana was bloody and sore after her tough labor, which also left her with a broken pelvis from the pressure of the baby. She was released a month after her son was born, and in the years since she's recovered and become a substance abuse counselor. Now pregnant with her third child, she still suffers with anxiety about childbirth but said a law against shackling would be a relief. "I just don't think any woman, when they're that vulnerable, should ever be treated that way," she said. "It's just wrong." □

Alaska poised to let people use marijuana at certain stores



In this Feb. 20, 2015, file photo, Alaska Cannabis Club CEO Charlo Greene prepares to roll a joint at the medical marijuana dispensary in Anchorage, Alaska.

Associated Press

By **BECKY BOHRER**
Associated Press

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) — Alaska is poised to become

the first state in the nation with statewide rules allowing people to use marijuana at certain stores where they buy it.

Lt. Gov. Kevin Meyer this week signed and filed rules for the use of recreational marijuana at authorized pot shops.

They allow marijuana use in special sections of stores that are separated from the retail area by walls and a secure door, or outdoors. Shops allowing for onsite use are to be freestanding, though an area seen as open for further discussion is whether shops that don't want to allow smoking must

be freestanding.

Supporters of onsite marijuana use see it as a way to provide tourists with a place to partake. Summer is tourist season in Alaska, with cruise ship passengers stopping in communities such as Juneau.

But industry officials also know there will be a lot of attention paid to how onsite use takes shape in the state.

"Outside of being a test model for the rest of the U.S., we're also going to be trying to do it right for ourselves," Cary Carrigan, executive director of the Alaska Marijuana Industry

Association, said recently. "There's a lot riding on this." The regulations take effect April 11, but there will be a lag before people can smoke or consume marijuana edibles at stores.

Alaska's marijuana regulatory board must vet all applications, and its next meeting is in early May. That's not enough turnaround time for businesses to have their applications ready for review, said Erika McConnell, director of the Alcohol and Marijuana Control Office. The deadline for meeting materials is April 12. □

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In this March 6, 2019, file photo, Michael Cohen, President Donald Trump's former lawyer, returns to Capitol Hill in Washington, to appear before the House Intelligence Committee.
Associated Press

NY attorney says feds probing his pardon talks with Michael Cohen

By JIM MUSTIAN
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Federal prosecutors have requested copies of communications Michael Cohen had with a New York attorney who broached the possibility of a pardon from President Donald Trump, the attorney said Wednesday.

The attorney, Robert J. Costello, released a statement disputing Cohen's claim that Trump "dangled" a presidential pardon in front of Cohen before he began cooperating with federal prosecutors and special counsel Robert Mueller.

"We have documents to back our position up, and are preparing to provide these to the U.S. Attorney's office, who has asked for them," Costello said in the statement. The statement referred

to Cohen's account of the pardon discussions as "utter nonsense." Federal prosecutors requested emails and documents from Costello last week amid an investigation into "possible violations of federal criminal law," The New York Times reported Wednesday, citing a copy of the request.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Manhattan declined to comment.

Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani confirmed that Costello, a former federal prosecutor, reached out to him after the raid.

"My answer was the president is not going to consider or give any pardons now," Giuliani told The Associated Press. "As I have said in the past, the president has the right to, and that doesn't mean he won't consider it when the investigation is over." □



Nancy Salzman, center, arrives at Brooklyn federal court, Wednesday, March 13, 2019, in New York.

Associated Press

Co-founder pleads guilty in New York sex slave case

By TOM HAYS
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A co-founder of an embattled upstate New York self-help organization pleaded guilty on Wednesday in a case featuring sensational claims that some followers became branded sex slaves.

An emotional Nancy Salzman told a judge in federal court in Brooklyn that she teamed up with Keith Raniere, the NXIVM group's self-styled spiritual leader, because she wanted to help people improve their lives. But she admitted that she later lost her way when she joined efforts to spy on perceived enemies seeking to expose the Albany-

based group as a cross between a pyramid scheme and a cult.

"It has taken some time and soul searching to come to this place," said Salzman, choking back tears. "I accept that some of what I did was not just wrong, but criminal. If I could go back and do it all over again, I would. But I can't."

Salzman, a registered nurse who was known as "Prefect" within NXIVM, was involved in stealing identities of the group's critics and hacking into their email accounts from 2003 to 2008, prosecutors said. They also alleged that she conspired to doctor videotapes showing her teaching NXIVM's lessons before the tapes were

turned over to plaintiffs in a New Jersey lawsuit against the group.

The plea comes about six weeks before Raniere is set to go on trial on charges alleging a secret master-slave society within NXIVM brainwashed women into having unwanted sex with him and had them branded with his initials in initiation ceremonies. Also charged in the case are Salzman's daughter as well as Seagram liquor fortune heiress Clare Bronfman and actress Allison Mack, best known for playing a teenage friend of Superman on the "Smallville" TV series. They have all denied the allegations. □

UK lawmakers to vote on requesting delay as Brexit day nears

By JILL LAWLESS
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British lawmakers have gone on record saying they don't want the U.K. to leave the European Union without a divorce agreement in place, increasing the odds that Brexit won't take place as planned at the end of the month.

With the approaching deadline intensifying fears that economic and personal turmoil might follow a "no-deal" withdrawal by Britain, Parliament voted 321-278 Wednesday to rule out the possibility.

However, Prime Minister Theresa May and the European Union noted the decision wasn't legally binding. She offered the House of Commons a chance to try to stop the countdown to a March 29 departure.

A look at what might happen:



Anti-Brexit, remain in the European Union supporters hold an EU and British union flag outside the Houses of Parliament in London, Wednesday, March 13, 2019.

Associated Press

DELAY, DELAY, DELAY

Now that the House of Commons gave leaving

the EU without an agreement a thumbs down, it is scheduled to vote Thursday

on whether to ask the EU to delay Brexit by up to three months.

This option is likely to prove popular, since politicians on both sides of the Brexit debate fear time is running out to secure an orderly withdrawal by March 29.

Extending the timeframe for Brexit requires approval from all 27 remaining EU member countries. They have an opportunity to grant such a request at a March 21-22 summit in Brussels.

But the rest of the EU is reluctant to postpone Brexit beyond the late May elections for the EU's legislature. The U.K. won't be represented in the European Parliament after it quits the EU; its seats already have been given to other countries to fill in the elections.

French President Emmanuel Macron, one of the EU's strongest supporters, said Wednesday that a request for a postponement would be considered, but not granted automatically. □

US-backed Syrian forces push on as IS militants fight back

By PHILIP ISSA
Associated Press

BAGHOUZ, Syria (AP) — U.S.-backed Syrian forces said Wednesday that Islamic State militants are putting up a desperate fight against their advances and staged a counterattack overnight from the tiny speck of land the extremists still hold in eastern Syria.

The counterattack began from the west of a riverside pocket in the Syrian village of Baghouz where the Islamic State group has been making its last stand, said a commander with the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces, or SDF.

Clashes were underway as the Kurdish-led forces tried to repel the IS attack, he said, adding they were also fighting to secure an area taken late on Tuesday. Another commander said at least four SDF fighters were killed in the fighting since early in the morning. Both commanders spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

A third commander, Dilbrin



A U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) fighter watches illumination rounds light up Baghouz, Syria, as the last pocket of Islamic State militants is attacked on Tuesday, March 12, 2019.

Associated Press

Nargiz, said the IS counterattack began just before dawn. IS militants usually operate in daylight as they lack night vision weapons and goggles.

The weeks-old push on Baghouz has also taken a toll on the Kurdish forces, some of whom have been battling IS for the past six

years.

"We'll die long before this war is over," said Simone Awad, a 22-year-old fighter whose friend was shot in the head next to him in the fighting earlier in the morning. It was not clear if the friend, who was taken to hospital, survived.

The battle to retake Bag-

houz and surrounding villages began in September and has since driven the militants into the tiny sliver of land following intense fighting and major setbacks.

For the last few weeks, the militants remained holed up in the shrinking space along the eastern banks of the Euphrates River.

Since early February, more than 10,000 civilians were evacuated from the IS-held pocket, most of them family members of IS fighters.

The capture of Baghouz would be a milestone in the devastating four-year campaign to defeat IS's so-called "caliphate," which once covered a vast territory straddling both Syria and Iraq. The U.S.-led coalition tweeted Wednesday it was continuing strikes against IS positions "day and night," allowing the militants no freedom of movement.

"Combined with the SDF ground movement, the final push in (Baghouz) continues," the coalition said.

A spokesman for the U.S.-backed forces, Adnan Afrin, said IS militants were putting up a "fierce resistance," firing mortar shells and rocket-propelled grenades in clashes that began Tuesday.

Afrin said his forces are advancing slowly, taking some positions on the edge of a tent encampment where thousands of civilians and militants had been holed up in recent weeks. □

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Boeing jet grounded in much of world after Ethiopia crash

By ELIAS MESERET
YIDNEK KIRUBEL
Associated Press

HEJERE, Ethiopia (AP) — Much of the world, including the entire European Union, grounded the Boeing jetliner involved in the Ethiopian Airlines crash or banned it from their airspace, leaving the United States as one of the few remaining operators of the plane involved in two deadly accidents in just five months.

The European Aviation Safety Agency took steps to keep the Boeing 737 Max 8 out of the air, joining Asian and Middle Eastern governments and carriers that also gave in to safety concerns in the aftermath of Sunday's crash, which killed all 157 people on board.

Referring to the Lion Air crash in Indonesia that killed 189 people last year, European regulators said Tuesday that "similar causes may have contributed to both events."

British regulators indicated possible trouble with a reportedly damaged flight data recorder, saying they based their decision on the fact that they did not have "sufficient information" from the recorder.

Turkish Airlines, Oman Air, Norwegian Air Shuttle, Icelandair and South Korean airline Eastar Jet were among the latest carriers to halt use of the Boeing model. The United Arab Emirates, Malaysia, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Singapore also suspended all flights in their airspace or into or out of their airports. A Turkish Airlines official said two Britain-bound planes



In this photo taken Monday, March 11, 2019, a Boeing 737 MAX 8 airplane being built for Air Canada sits parked at Boeing Co.'s Renton Assembly Plant in Renton, Wash.

Associated Press

returned to Istanbul after British airspace was closed to the aircraft. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak publicly.

U.S.-based Boeing has said it has no reason to pull the popular aircraft from the skies and does not intend to issue new recommendations about the aircraft to customers. Boeing's CEO Dennis Muilenburg also spoke with President Donald Trump and reiterated that the 737 Max 8 is safe, the company said. Its technical team, meanwhile, joined American, Israeli, Kenyan and other aviation experts in the investigation led by Ethiopian authorities. The Federal Aviation Administration also backed the jet's airworthiness and said it was reviewing all available data. It said it expects Boeing will soon complete improvements to an automated anti-stall system suspected of contributing to the deadly crash of another new Boeing 737

Max 8 in October.

"Thus far, our review shows no systemic performance issues and provides no basis to order grounding the aircraft," acting FAA Administrator Daniel K. Elwell said in a statement. "Nor have other civil aviation authorities provided data to us that would warrant action."

Some U.S. airlines expressed support for the Boeing model, and American Airlines and Southwest continued flying them. A vice president for American, the world's biggest carrier, which has 24 Max 8s, said they had "full confidence in the aircraft."

Safety experts cautioned against drawing too many comparisons too soon with the Lion Air crash in October. But others in the U.S. began pressing for action. The Association of Professional Flight Attendants, which represents more than 26,000 flight attendants at American Airlines, called on CEO Doug Parker to "strongly consider

grounding these planes until an investigation can be performed."

Consumer Reports called on airlines and the FAA to ground the jets until a thorough safety investigation is complete.

Even Trump weighed in, tweeting that additional "complexity creates danger" in modern aircraft and hinders pilots from making "split second decisions" to ensure passengers' safety. He did not specifically mention the crashes but said, "I don't know about you, but I don't want Albert Einstein to be my pilot."

The Ethiopian Airlines plane crashed six minutes after taking off for Nairobi, killing people from 35 countries.

A pilot who saw the crash site minutes after the disaster told the AP that the plane appeared to have "slid directly into the ground." Capt. Solomon Gizaw was among the first people dispatched to find the plane. The wreckage was discovered by Ethiopia's air force.

"There was nothing to see," he said. "It looked like the earth had swallowed the aircraft. ... We were surprised!" He said it explained why rescue officials quickly sent bulldozers to begin digging out large pieces of debris.

Ethiopian Airlines, widely seen as Africa's best-managed airline, grounded its remaining four 737 Max 8s until further notice. The carrier had been using five of the planes and was awaiting delivery of 25 more.

As night fell, the airline offered no new updates on the investigation. An airline spokesman said victims' remains should be identified in about five days.

Some insights into the disaster and its cause could take months, aviation experts said.

"The conclusions that will come out of its probe will be beneficial to the rest of the world," Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said Tuesday at a news conference with visiting French President Emmanuel Macron. "These types of accidents break everyone's heart. I hope we will learn from this crash."

On Tuesday a group of officials from China, which also grounded planes, paused in their work at the scene to reflect with an offering of incense, fruit, bread rolls and a plastic container of the Ethiopian flatbread injera.

As the global team searched for answers, a woman stood near the crash site, wailing. Kebebew Legess said she was the mother of a young Ethiopian Airlines crew member among the dead. □

Rights group: EU complicit in violence against migrants

By DARKO BANDIC

Associated Press

BIHAC, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — A leading rights group has accused European Union states of complicity in the "systematic, unlawful and frequently violent pushbacks" by Croatian border guards of thousands of asylum-seekers to squalid and unsafe refugee camps in Bosnia.

Amnesty International said in a report released Wednesday that "European governments are not just turning a blind eye to vicious assaults by the Croatian police, but also funding their activities."

The report said that "in doing so, they are fueling a growing humanitarian crisis on the edge of the European Union."

Croatian authorities have repeatedly denied such reports in the past.

In a response to the Amnesty International report



In this Nov. 28, 2018 file photo, a group of migrants moves through a forest in the Pljesevica Mountain in an attempt to illegally cross the border into Croatia.

Associated Press

on Wednesday, Croatian Interior Minister Davor Bozovic said that the ministry has received more than 200 complaints issued by in-

ternational rights groups of alleged illegal and violent pushbacks of migrants, but that after investigations no foul play was detected in a

single case.

"Migrants in most cases falsely accuse police officials of violence, hoping that this will help them en-

ter the Republic of Croatia the next time they try," he said in a statement.

In Brussels, European Commission spokeswoman Mina Andreeva said that the EU's executive body is concerned about the allegations made in the report and is taking them very seriously.

"Any form of violence against or abuse of migrants and refugees is unacceptable," she told reporters, adding that EU is contacting Croatian authorities about the matter.

"The commission expects Croatia to follow up promptly on these specific allegations and we will continue to closely monitor the situation," Andreeva said. Thousands of migrants have been stuck in Bosnia as they seek to move on toward Western Europe. Migrants mostly travel illegally with the help of people smugglers. □

Algeria: Opposition meets, key govt figures appeal for calm

By AOMAR OUALI

ALGIERS, Algeria (AP) —

Algerian opposition leaders called for continued mass protests Wednesday against President Abdelaziz Bouteflika as key figures in his new government attempted to appeal for calm.

The opposition accuses the 82-year-old president of flouting the constitution to cling to power. This week he abandoned plans to seek a fifth term, but he also canceled next month's presidential election without setting a new date and replaced key ministerial posts, including that of prime minister, with loyalists. Teachers took to the streets to keep up pressure on the longtime president, as political uncertainty grips this gas-rich North African country.

A broad swath of opposition figures met Wednesday at the headquarters of the Islamist party El Adala and issued a statement saying: "At this historic, decisive moment, the Algerian opposition is at the side of the people."



Teachers hold placards reading, on the left, "You have millions. We are millions of teachers" and in the center "I dream of a democratic Algeria", during a protest in Algiers, Algeria, Wednesday, March 13, 2019.

Associated Press

They called the election delay unconstitutional, and appealed for the unprecedented revolt against the ailing Bouteflika to continue. Nationwide, potentially

decisive protests are expected Friday, after millions have come to the streets in recent weeks.

Algeria's new deputy prime minister and foreign min-

ister, Ramtane Lamamra, tried to appeal for calm on Public Radio Wednesday, saying the new government is "fully fledged" and "will ensure political and

economic institutions function normally."

"We want the transition (to new elections) to be as short as possible," he added.

Former foreign minister Lakhdar Brahimi, who is close to Bouteflika, said, "we want to organize successful elections in a climate of serenity to preserve the stability of Algeria."

Brahimi denied reports that he would chair a conference planning Algeria's future, adding: "I say to the young Algerians who protest, do not destroy Algeria, like Iraq and Syria."

Algerians have barely seen their president since he suffered a stroke in 2013, and question his fitness for office. Protesters are also angry about corruption and secrecy in Algeria's power structure.

Wednesday's opposition gathering included prominent Islamists and rival secular parties, two former prime ministers and others who have served in Bouteflika's governments but have since turned against the country's leadership. □

China: Taiwan's moves like 'stretching arm to block a car'

By CHRISTOPHER BODEEN

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Attempts to block Beijing's goal of bringing Taiwan under its control are like "stretching out an arm to block a car," China said in its latest rhetorical broadside against the self-governing island republic's independence-minded president.

The statement issued late Tuesday takes aim at Tsai Ing-wen's recent announcement of measures to counter China's "one country, two systems" framework for political unification with the island.

Spokesman for the Chinese Cabinet's Taiwan Affairs Office An Fengshan accused Tsai of harming relations between the sides and using the welfare of the Taiwanese people as a "poker chip" for the sake of electoral gains.

Such actions "stand in opposition to the interests and welfare of our Taiwan compatriots, and endeavor to block progress by com-



In this March 21, 2017, file photo, Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen, center, along with Defense Minister Feng Shih-kuan, right, and Secretary-General of National Security Council Joseph Wu, left, cheer with navy officers during a visit to Zuoying Naval base in Kaohsiung, southern Taiwan.

Associated Press

patriots on both sides to progress," An said. "All it is, is stretching out an arm to block a car," he said, using a common Chinese expression to describe a futile ac-

tion. China says Taiwan is a part of its territory that must be brought under its control by force if necessary, despite the social, political

and economic differences developed between them since they separated amid civil war 70 years ago.

Tsai of the pro-independence Democratic Pro-

gressive Party was elected in a 2016 landslide, but has seen her approval ratings fall as she prepares to seek re-election next year.

In a meeting on national security Monday, Tsai said relations with China must be "viewed in a positive way, but only when the principle of equal dignity is safeguarded," according to the official Central News Agency.

Taiwan's legal and political institutions need strengthening and its military needs bolstering — including through bigger budgets — while economic competitiveness needs to be raised and greater outreach make to the international community to counter Beijing's isolation campaign, she said.

"As long as we stay united, national sovereignty, freedom and democracy will not be eroded, and 'one country, two systems' will not become the future of Taiwan," Tsai said. □

School building collapses in Nigeria with scores said inside

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP) — A three-story building collapsed in Nigeria on Wednesday with scores of school children thought to be inside, setting off frantic rescue efforts in the country's crowded commercial capital. An emergency management official said more than 40 people had been found but it was not yet clear how many died.

Associated Press video showed rescuers carrying several dust-covered, stunned-looking children from the rubble, to cheers from hundreds of people who rushed to the scene. But the crowd quieted as others were pulled out and slung over people's shoulders, unmoving.

The children were hurried through the crowd to ambulances. One man pressed his hands to a passing survivor's head in blessing.

Rescue efforts unfolded in the densely populated neighborhood in Lagos, Nigeria's commercial capital



Emergency services attend the scene after a building collapsed in Lagos, Nigeria, Wednesday March 13, 2019.

Associated Press

and a city of some 20 million people. More equipment was brought in as nightfall approached.

As many as 100 children had been in the primary school on the building's top

floor, some witnesses said. More than 40 people had been found "but for now I am not in a position to give the number of dead," Shina Tiemiye, general manager of the Lagos State

Emergency Management Agency, told The Associated Press.

It was not immediately clear why the building collapsed. Such disasters are all too common in Nigeria,

where new construction often goes up without regulatory oversight and floors are added to already unstable buildings.

Lagos state Gov. Akinwunmi Ambode said buildings in the neighborhood, Ita Faji, should have undergone integrity tests but landlords resisted.

Hundreds of people stood in narrow streets and on rooftops of rusted, corrugated metal, watching rescue efforts. A yellow excavator scooped at the ruins of rebar and dust. Later it nosed at concrete slabs.

With emotions high, a number of shirtless men jumped in to offer assistance, hacksaws and mallets in hand. Some were barefoot. Some were bare-handed. One held a water bottle in his teeth.

The collapse came as President Muhammadu Buhari, newly elected to a second term, tries to improve groaning, inefficient infrastructure in Africa's most populous nation. □

Ex-students attack school in Brazil, 8 dead

By MAURICIO SAVARESE
ANNA JEAN KAISER

Associated Press

SUZANO, Brazil (AP) — Two masked men armed with guns, knives, axes and crossbows descended on a school in southern Brazil on Wednesday, killing five students and two adults before taking their own lives, authorities said.

The men, identified as former students at the school in a suburb of Sao Paulo, also shot and killed the owner of a used car business nearby before launching the attack on the school, authorities said.

Besides the five students, the dead included a teacher and a school administrator, said Joao Camilo Pires de Campos, the state's public secretary. Nine others were wounded in the school attack and hospitalized, he said.

"This is the saddest day of my life," de Campos said, speaking to reporters out-



Police officers stand guard outside the Raul Brasil State School in Suzano, the greater Sao Paulo area, Brazil, Wednesday, March 13, 2019.

Associated Press

side the school in the Sao Paulo suburb of Suzano.

Authorities identified the attackers as 17-year-old Guilherme Tauci Monteiro and 25-year-old Henrique

de Castro.

"The big question is: what was the motivation of these former students?" de Castro said.

Monteiro opened fire with

a .38 caliber handgun and de Castro used a crossbow, de Campos said, adding that forensics would determine how the victims died.

The attackers were also

carrying Molotov cocktails, knives and axes, authorities said.

"In 34 years as a policeman, it's the first time I see someone use a crossbow like that," police Col. Marcelo Salles said. "It is horrendous."

The attackers were trying to force their way inside a room at the back of the school where many students were hiding when police arrived. Instead of face police, they turned their weapons on themselves, authorities said without elaborating.

Students gathered outside the school recounted harrowing attacks and seeing several bodies lying in pools of blood.

Kelly Milene Guerra Cardoso, 16, said she and other students took refuge in the school's cafeteria, locked the door and lay on the floor.

"We stayed there until the door was opened. □

Nicaragua 'marathon' protester flees for exile in Costa Rica

By GABRIELA SELSER

MANAGUA, Nicaragua

(AP) — A Nicaraguan man who became a prominent public face of opposition to President Daniel Ortega's government for his defiant protest runs through the capital has left the country for exile, his son said Wednesday.

Byron Vanegas, Alex Vanegas' son, confirmed to The Associated Press that his father, who came to be known as the "marathon man," has gone to neighboring Costa Rica.

"He decided to leave the country because he could no longer stand the (police) siege and harassment," Byron Vanegas said. He had been briefly detained repeatedly during the protests and in November was jailed for what turned out to be four months.

In a recent interview, Alex Vanegas, 62, told the AP that police patrols were watching his home constantly after he was conditionally released to house arrest in late February,



Alex Vanegas holds on to the iron bars he had installed on the porch of his apartment to symbolize his home arrest in Managua, Nicaragua, Tuesday, March 5, 2019.

Associated Press

along with about 100 others considered political prisoners, as talks resumed on Nicaragua's political stand-off.

Those people are not supposed to leave their homes, much less the country, but

Byron Vanegas said his father crossed into Costa Rica "somewhere along the border." He did not give further details.

"He always said that Ortega was not going to quiet him, that nobody was go-

ing to halt his struggle," Byron Vanegas said. "So now he will continue protesting and running for Nicaragua" from exile.

Tens of thousands of Nicaraguans have fled to Costa Rica and other countries

after protests demanding Ortega's exit from office broke out last year and hundreds died in a crack-down by security forces.

Government officials have accused opposition demonstrators of being "coup plotters" and "terrorists." Rosario Murillo, Nicaragua's powerful vice president and first lady, once said that Alex Vanegas was "making a fool of himself" and suggested he was one of many "traitors."

Also Wednesday, the government said in a statement that its representatives for the talks had returned to the facility where they had been taking place — before being suspended last Friday — in hopes that the Civic Alliance opposition group would show up.

Opposition delegates have said they will not resume dialogue until Ortega makes "overwhelming gestures" of goodwill, including the immediate and definitive release of about 770 people considered political prisoners. □

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Making a difference



ORANJESTAD — Recently, a group of tourists from Canada decided to do an act of kindness by giving a donation to the Ambiente Feliz foundation. The group has visited the island for over 20 years and decided that on this trip they would take one day out of their vacation "to make a difference".

It all started when an intern from Ambiente Feliz who studies at the University of Aruba, and who also works as a front desk agent at a hotel, told one of the guests about her internship and the need for donation boxes. Ambiente Feliz, a family replacement home for people with a mental impairment, seeks actively for donations. As in this case for a new kitchen. In urgent need for 15.000 AWG to finish the kitchen project, the foundation thought it would help to place a few donation boxes to raise extra funds. One guest told another and before they knew it Ambiente Feliz had received 10 donation boxes. As a thank you the director of Ambiente Feliz, Ms. Lukee Croes, invited the tourists for a visit on the 7th of March.

The group was very interested in the clients and the work Ambiente Feliz does on a daily basis. They were amazed to see how much can be done with so little funds. Experiences were shared and memories were made. During their visit Ambiente Feliz received another 700\$ to invest in a new kitchen. Thanks to the kind donation of strangers Ambiente Feliz is now a step closer to a new kitchen where their clients can apply their daily chores.

Ambiente Feliz invites others who want to contribute to their new kitchen to contact Ambiente Feliz at 5858738 or make a kind donation at Caribbean Mercantile Bank, account 20906501, under the name of Stichting Ambiente Feliz.

For more information concerning the foundation and the services they provide you can visit www.stichtingambienteFeliz.com or find their page on Facebook for more weekly activities and announcements. □

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Share in our local pride at Renaissance Mall & Marketplace



ORANJESTAD — This weekend is a long one as Monday is a national holiday for Aruba. Monday March 18th is the day that Arubans honor their national anthem and flag and you can join in! Renaissance Mall & Marketplace has a special event for you planned where you can mingle with the locals while enjoying live music, great food and amazing drinks!

Probably the most popular national holiday on Aruba is the day of the national anthem and flag, Dia di Himno y Bandera. Everywhere on the island there are bake sales,

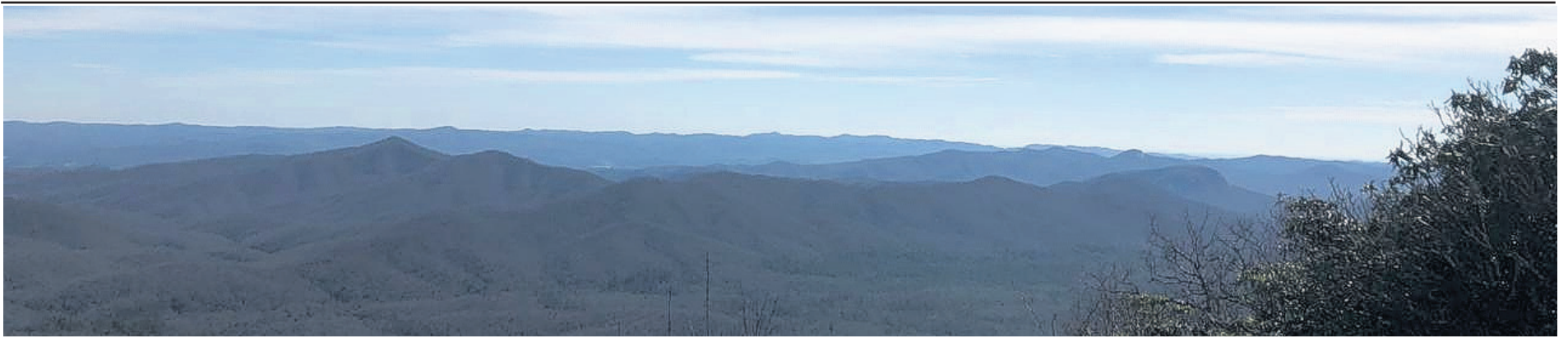
games and special celebrations and a lot of locals are proudly wearing their tee-shirts with the Aruban flag.

A strong sense of pride is displayed all over as Arubans celebrate their Flag and Anthem Day. Let's celebrate our National Flag and Anthem Day with Grupo Di Betico! The celebration starts at 8:30PM at the main stage of Renaissance Mall & Marketplace. End this festive day at the Renaissance Marketplace with several dining options or unwind with a cocktail. Join us and let's celebrate this big day!



One day before is another popular day, especially for Americans and Irish. The Renaissance Mall & Marketplace thought of this Green Happening too as they are going to celebrate St. Patrick's Day like the Irish do. It will be a true Irish Pop-up. A weekend filled with festivities, shamrocks, green beer and a lot of food! Check out more information on the Facebook page Renaissance Marketplace. □





Student Affairs

By Louedska Maduro

Spring Break

ORANJESTAD — It is officially spring break! Which means, no exams, no quizzes and time to relax. As you all may know, I have been looking forward to spring break for quite some time already. Everything at the University of South Carolina campus is basically closed and almost everyone left the campus to go back home, either to their family or their friends. Some people may have also decided to take this opportunity and go traveling somewhere else instead of going back home.

Up until now, my exchange semester at the University of South Carolina is going well. At the start, there were some issues I had encountered in regard to my courses, but I have managed to solve these issues. Each day, I am getting more accustomed to being in such a big campus and city compared to back home. I have made some new friends and managed to do a lot of things in the city of Columbia. However, I cannot lie that I do miss Aruba. Especially my family and my friends. Also, don't forget the warm and sunny weather on the island of Aruba. As they say, there is no place like home.

A difference that I have noticed while being a student at the University of South Carolina, is that the students in Aruba



are more approachable than the students here. The students that I have encountered here have the tendency to be more on their own. Which means, that they will not easily approach people and start a random conversation with someone they see walking on campus. Meanwhile in Aruba, this is the complete opposite. Also, this example is not limited to only students on Aruba, but the people on the island as well. Everywhere you go on the island, you can definitely find someone who you can start a random conversation with and will give you plenty of suggestions on where to go and what to do.

A program I want to mention this time, is the Buddies Beyond Borders program at the University of South Carolina. This program was developed by the International Student Services and helps both international and American students at the University of South Carolina create a connection and long-lasting

friendships. Everyone at the University of South Carolina has the opportunity to sign up if they would like to become a domestic buddy and afterwards, they will get paired up with someone who has "matched" with them. Which is, usually an international buddy. The matching is based upon availability, personal interests, age and gender. The Buddies Beyond Borders program does have requirements and expectations that each student needs to consider before signing up. I have signed up for the Buddies Beyond Borders upon arrival and gained a great friend through the program. I definitely recommend anyone who is currently at the University of South Carolina to apply to be a domestic buddy and also international students who are going to attend the University of South Carolina in the future. It is a great opportunity to meet new people and get to know other cultures.

Regarding my spring break plans, I have de-

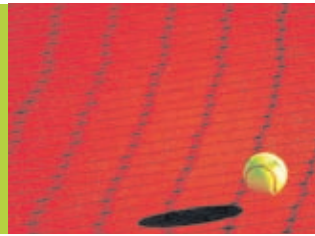
cided to drive up to Asheville for a few days. I have never been to North Carolina, thus I thought, why not take this opportunity to go there. Since for me, personally, I find that Columbia is a lot more of a "city life". Therefore, I wanted to get away for a while and go more into the nature aspect. Today, I went to the Blue Ridge Parkway and decided to go on a hike there. I visited the Graveyard Fields. I loved it. The only downside of the hike was that, because there was some slight rainfall yesterday, some of the trails were a bit muddy. Moreover, I love the downtown area and the breweries in Asheville. Tomorrow I will go spend the day at the Biltmore, which is a popular attraction in Asheville.

For everyone who are also currently on spring break, I hope you all are having a great time and be safe! In my next article, I will continue to update you with all my adventures as an exchange student abroad. □



Louedska Maduro, 25 years old, is currently a third-year student at the University of Aruba in the program of Organization, Governance and Management. Louedska takes part in an exchange abroad during the spring semester. She is now attending the University of South Carolina for the upcoming four months and will take this experience as her inspiration for her column Student Affairs. The column will be in the newspaper every other Thursday.

SPORTS



In a September 2016 photo, Yale's women's head soccer Coach Rudy Meredith gives pointers to players during a scrimmage in Ocala, Fla.
Associated Press

A twist in the usual college sports scandal

By TIM DAHLBERG
AP Sports Columnist

The latest federal probe into the seamy underbelly of college athletics uncovered just the opposite of what we usually expect: Instead of paying recruits to attend schools, coaches and top athletic officials at some of America's finest universities were selling spots on their rosters to the highest bidder.

Those spots in sports like rowing, sailing and soccer didn't come cheap. In charging 50 people in indictments unveiled Tuesday, prosecutors said some very rich people paid some very big money — up to \$6.5 million in one case — to get their kids into places like Stanford, the University of Southern California and, yes, even Yale. That might ordinarily not seem much like a crime, since a good college can be expensive. But these parents weren't exactly sending checks to the registrar's office.

Continued on Page 22



TRADED AWAY

Odell Beckham Jr. traded to Cleveland Browns

In this Oct. 28, 2018, file photo, New York Giants wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr. (13) makes a one handed catch against Washington Redskins safety D.J. Swearingen (36) and linebacker Josh Harvey-Clemons (40) during an NFL football game, in East Rutherford, N.J. No longer a punching bag, the Browns are punching back.

Associated Press
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Giants trade Beckham to Browns, Jets get Bell

By **BARRY WILNER**
AP Pro Football Writer

While the free agency spending frenzy runs wild, the Giants and Browns found a way to overshadow it Tuesday night: a trade of Odell Beckham Jr.

Not to be outdone, however, the Jets got the guy at the top of their free agency list, agreeing with former Steelers running back Le'Veon Bell on a deal early Wednesday morning.

The Giants are sending their star receiver to Cleveland for first- and second-round draft picks in April and safety Jabrill Peppers in the second blockbuster trade in four days. On Saturday, Pittsburgh sent unhappy wideout Antonio Brown to Oakland, a deal Brown forced.

Beckham is the NFL's highest-paid receiver; he got a five-year, \$90 million extension last August. He comes off two injury-plagued seasons, but when healthy is a game-breaking target, just like Brown.

The two trades become official Wednesday when the league's business year begins. People with knowledge of the moves told The Associated Press of the trades, speaking anonymously because the transactions can't be announced until after 4 p.m. EDT on Wednesday.

Beckham is known for his gravity-defying catches and breakaway skills, but also for being temperamental. He was suspended for one game in 2015 for his on-field battles with cornerback Josh Norman, then with Carolina.

Cleveland suddenly looks like a force in an AFC North in which both Baltimore and Pittsburgh have been weakened in the offseason. With Beckham reunited with receiver Jarvis Landry, a teammate at LSU, it gives quarterback Baker Mayfield two top targets. The Browns, who went 7-8-1 last season after not winning a game in 2017, haven't made the playoffs since 2002.

The mega-trade came hours after another busy day of dealmaking.



In this Oct. 22, 2017, file photo, Pittsburgh Steelers running back Le'Veon Bell (26) carries the ball during an NFL football game against the Cincinnati Bengals in Pittsburgh.

Associated Press

The money flowed out of New Jersey, with the Jets agreeing Tuesday to contracts with three players: wide receivers Jamison Crowder and Josh Bellamy, and linebacker C.J. Mosley. The team also will re-sign cornerback Darryl Roberts and defensive end Henry Anderson.

But the big news came when the Jets and Bell agreed on a deal. ESPN first reported the signing, saying the contract is for four years and \$52.5 million.

The deal gives new coach Adam Gase and second-year quarterback Sam Darnold a big-time playmaker, arguably the best player at his position before Bell opted to sit out all of last season rather than sign a franchise tender with Pittsburgh.

Bell has rushed for 5,336 yards and 35 touchdowns, and has 312 catches for 2,660 yards and seven scores as one of the most versatile and dangerous offensive players in the NFL.

"I'm back in the green baby," the former Michigan State star wrote on Twitter. "Let's get it."

It streamed out of Green Bay, with the Packers getting deals with edge rusher Za'Darius Smith, linebacker Preston Smith, safety Adrian

Amos and offensive lineman Billy Turner. The Packers also cut veteran linebacker Nick Perry.

And it poured out of Oakland once more when the Raiders kept their vault open and agreed to a four-year contract with safety Lamarcus Joyner. The Raiders previously made big moves on offense by trading for Brown and agreeing to a deal with tackle Trent Brown.

Given the "legal tampering" freedom the league now allows for two days, well, let Ravens general manager Eric DeCosta describe the mayhem.

"Unfortunately for us, the market is irrational at times and we can't be held responsible for what other teams want to pay," DeCosta said. "All we can do is try to negotiate in good faith with agents and the players."

JETS

The Jets had more than \$82.5 million to spend in free agency, and they are spending it. They thought they also had an agreement with Vikings linebacker Anthony Barr, but he opted instead to return to Minnesota.

Not that the Jets fell short in adding talent. The 26-year-old Mosley is a four-time Pro

Bowl linebacker who will get a reported five years and \$85 million, including a whopping \$51 million guaranteed. Mosley has had at least 100 tackles in every season but 2016, when he missed two games with an injury and finished with 92. He will be a centerpiece of new defensive coordinator Gregg Williams' unit.

In dire need of receivers for Darnold, New York is adding the 26-year-old Crowder as a playmaking slot receiver. Crowder, whose deal reportedly is for three years and \$28.5 million, had 221 catches for 2,628 yards and 14 touchdowns in four seasons with Washington. He was limited to nine games last season because of an ankle injury. Bellamy has 76 career catches for 999 yards and five touchdowns, and is also a special teams contributor. He spent the last five years with Chicago.

PACKERS

The defensive signings should improve a unit that ranked 18th in the NFL in 2018. Za'Darius Smith is getting the biggest deal: \$66 million over four years with \$34.5 million in the first two years, according to his agency, SportsTrust Advisors. The 28-year-old Smith led the Ravens with

8½ sacks last season — including three in one game against Tennessee — and has 18½ in his 58-game career.

Preston Smith agreed to a \$52 million, four-year contract with \$16 million guaranteed. For Amos, it is a \$37 million, four-year contract. Amos, 25, started all 16 games for the NFC North rival Chicago Bears last season and had two interceptions.

Turner gets a \$28 million, four-year contract.

RAIDERS

Joyner becomes the first major addition on defense in Oakland. He played last season on a franchise tag for the Rams, earning \$11.3 million. But Los Angeles signed Eric Weddle last week to be Joyner's replacement.

The 28-year-old Joyner was originally a second-round pick by the Rams in 2014 and played 67 games over five seasons with the franchise. He has four interceptions and 25 passes defensed in his career.

RAVENS

It's been a difficult two days for the Ravens. Za'Darius Smith, Mosley, Weddle and long-time star Terrell Suggs (Cardinals) all departed from their top-ranked defense.

"We see good young players leave us every year," DeCosta said. "We've tried to adjust over time, but I think now is a great opportunity for us to become financially responsible, to get control over the salary cap to understand the concept of right player, right price." □



James scores 36, Lakers end 5-game skid by beating Bulls

By The Associated Press
CHICAGO (AP) — LeBron James had 36 points and 10 rebounds, and the Los Angeles Lakers overcame a 20-point deficit to beat the Chicago Bulls 123-107 on Tuesday night and end a five-game losing streak. James played 33 minutes and showed no signs of letting up with the Lakers barely hanging on in the playoff race. He took over after the Lakers' 14-point lead was cut to four with 8:38 left, making a jumper and then on the next possession going through the lane for a thunderous dunk. James didn't stop there, hitting a 3-pointer over 7-footer Robin Lopez and capping it off when Josh Hart passed the ball off the backboard to James, who finished with a reverse dunk to put the Lakers up 115-101 with 5 minutes remaining. Kyle Kuzma added 21 points after missing two games with an ankle injury. Kentavious Caldwell-Pope scored 24 points off the bench for the Lakers, who outscored the Bulls 43-24 in the third quarter. Lopez had 20 points and seven rebounds, and Otto Porter Jr. finished with 19 for the Bulls.

BUCKS 130, PELICANS 113

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 24 points and Milwaukee used a 45-point third quarter to pull away from New Orleans. Khris Middleton had 23 points, Malcolm Brogdon added 18, and Eric Bledsoe and former Pelicans forward Nikola Mirotic each scored 14 for the Bucks. Brook Lopez finished with 13. Elfrid Payton had his second consecutive triple-double for the Pelicans, finishing with 14 points, a career-high 15 rebounds and 11 assists. He is the first New Orleans player to have a triple-double in consecutive games since Chris Paul in 2008.

Julius Randle scored 23 points and Anthony Davis

had 21 points and 12 rebounds.

76ERS 106, CAVALIERS 99

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Ben Simmons scored 26 points, Joel Embiid had 19 rebounds and made some big plays down the stretch, and Philadelphia held off Cleveland.

Collin Sexton led the Cavaliers with 26 points, including a layup with 3:10 left that pulled Cleveland within one. Cedi Osman added 18 and put the Cavs ahead 97-96 with under 3 minutes to go as boos rained down in Philly.

But Mike Scott responded with a 3-pointer to put the 76ers back ahead. And after Simmons made a free throw and Jordan Clarkson a layup for Cleveland, Embiid followed his own miss with a thunderous dunk to give the Sixers a 102-99 lead with under a minute left.

Embiid, playing in his second game after missing eight straight with a sore left knee, had a block on the other end and then made four straight free throws to seal the win as "MVP! MVP!" chants replaced the boos.

SPURS 112, MAVERICKS 105

DALLAS (AP) — DeMar DeRozan scored 33 points, LaMarcus Aldridge added 28 and San Antonio beat Dallas.

DeRozan and Aldridge had identical 11-for-19 shooting lines from the field and combined to go 17 of 17 from the foul line. The Spurs led from the middle of the first quarter on in winning their sixth in a row. Dallas lost its sixth straight and 11th in 12 games.

Derrick White added 23 points and seven assists for San Antonio.

Jalen Brunson scored a career-high 34 points for the Mavericks and Dwight Powell added 20.

PACERS 103, KNICKS 98

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Bojan Bogdanovic scored 24 points and Darren Collison made two free throws 19.5 seconds left to help Indiana slip past New York.

Indiana snapped its two-

game losing streak and remained tied with Philadelphia for the No. 3 spot in the Eastern Conference. Collison finished with 16 points.

New York lost its seventh straight despite getting 21 points from Emmanuel Mudiay and 18 from Damyean Dotson. The Knicks also have lost six straight in the series.

TRAIL BLAZERS 125, CLIPPERS 104

LOS ANGELES (AP) — CJ McCollum scored 35 points, Jusuf Nurkic and Damian Lillard added 20 apiece and Portland snapped Los Angeles' five-game winning streak.

McCollum, who was 12 of 21 from the field and made six 3-pointers, took control of the game during the fourth quarter as the Trail Blazers broke things open with a 21-5 run. Portland led 95-94 with 8:50 remaining before going on a 15-3 spurt that included 13 straight points by McCollum, including three 3-pointers.



Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James (23) dunks in front of Chicago Bulls guard Kris Dunn during the second half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, March 12, 2019, in Chicago.

Associated Press

The Clippers — who were on the end of back-to-back games — led for most of the first 30 minutes before the Trail Blazers went on an 11-3 run to go up 75-68 with 4:55 remaining in the third quarter. McCollum and Lillard completed the run with 3s. Los Angeles slowly crept back and was within one in the fourth before Portland took control. Montrezl Harrell had 22 points and Lou Williams added 18 for the Clippers, who had won eight of their previous 10.

NUGGETS 133, TIMBERWOLVES 107

DENVER (AP) — Jamal Murray scored 19 of his 30 points in the second half, Mason Plumlee dished out eight of Denver's season-high 40 assists and the Nuggets cruised over banged-up Minnesota. Paul Millsap finished with 23 points, including a buzzer-beater from half-court to end the third quarter. Nikola Jokic added 18 points, eight rebounds and seven assists to help Denver snap a two-game slide at Pepsi Center.

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Johnny Gaudreau powers Flames past Devils 9-4

By The Associated Press

CALGARY, Alberta (AP)

— Johnny Gaudreau had three goals and three assists, and the Calgary Flames scored six times in the third period on their way to a 9-4 victory over the New Jersey Devils on Tuesday night.

Derek Ryan added two goals for Calgary. Sam Bennett, Elias Lindholm, Matthew Tkachuk and Sean Monahan also scored.

The Flames went ahead to stay on Gaudreau's penalty shot 1:01 into the third. Gaudreau finished off his hat trick at 12:01, converting a setup from Monahan. It was the NHL's first six-point game since Dallas' Jamie Benn on Nov. 14, 2013, at Calgary. Gaudreau became the first Flames player to accomplish the feat since Al MacInnis on March 20, 1994.

Blake Coleman, Travis Zajac, Kyle Palmieri and Kenney Agostino scored for New Jersey, which is winless in its last seven (0-6-1).

PENGUINS 5, CAPITALS 3

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Sidney Crosby scored twice during a furious second-period rally and Evgeni Malkin picked up two assists to reach 1,000 career points, leading Pittsburgh to the win.

Crosby picked up his 32nd and 33rd goals during a three-goal outburst over a span of 1:48 as Pittsburgh erased a two-goal deficit to take the lead on its way to snapping Washington's seven-game winning streak. Jake Guentzel started Pittsburgh's comeback



New Jersey Devils' Stefan Noesen, right, checks Calgary Flames' Johnny Gaudreau during the first period of an NHL hockey game Tuesday, March 12, 2019, in Calgary, Alberta.

Associated Press

with his team-leading 35th of the season. Phil Kessel and Jared McCann both added a goal and an assist for the Penguins, who have won six of eight.

Jakub Vrana scored twice for Washington, and defenseman John Carlson collected his 11th of the season. Alexander Ovechkin picked up an assist to become the 48th player in NHL history with 1,200 career points.

CANADIENS 3, RED WINGS 1

MONTREAL (AP) — Carey Price made 20 saves and became the winningest goaltender in Canadiens history.

It was win No. 315 for Price, snapping a tie with Hall of Famer Jacques Plante atop the team leaderboard.

Max Domi had two goals and Brett Kulak also scored

as the Canadiens (37-26-7) stopped a two-game slide. Tomas Tatar had two assists against his former team.

Andreas Athanasiou scored in the third period for Detroit (24-36-10), which has won just once in its past 12 games. Jonathan Bernier stopped 33 shots.

BLUE JACKETS 7, BRUINS 4

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Boone Jenner scored three times for his first career hat trick, powering Columbus to the win.

The Blue Jackets scored five unanswered goals to go up 5-1 before the Bruins came roaring back with three straight in a wild second period. Zach Werenski's first goal in 30 games provided Columbus some breathing room, and Jenner's empty-netter completed his hat trick with 47 seconds left.

Werenski and Josh Anderson each had a career-high four points on one goal and three assists. The Blue Jackets had lost four of six, but remain in contention for a wild card in the Eastern Conference.

Brad Marchand had two goals and an assist for Boston, and Patrice Bergeron finished with a goal and an assist. The Bruins stayed in second place behind Tampa Bay in the Atlantic Division.

SHARKS 5, JETS 4

WINNIPEG, Manitoba (AP) — Joe Pavelski scored with 4.3 seconds left, lifting San Jose to the victory in a matchup of division leaders.

Gustav Nyquist had two goals for San Jose (43-19-8), giving him three in his six games since being traded

to the Sharks in late February. Marc-Edouard Vlasic and Marcus Sorensen also scored.

Aaron Dell made 21 saves as San Jose remained undefeated in March with its sixth straight win.

Mathieu Perreault had a goal and an assist for Winnipeg (40-25-4), which dropped to 12-5-2 against the Pacific Division this season. Andrew Copp, Bryan Little, and Kyle Connor also scored, and Connor Hellebuyck stopped 31 shots.

COYOTES 3, BLUES 1

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Richard Panik and Vinnie Hinostroza scored to help Arizona to the road win.

Darcy Kuemper made 39 saves just one night after he allowed four goals on 16 shots before he was pulled during the second period of Arizona's 7-1 loss in Chicago. He has won 10 of his last 12 starts to improve to 23-16-5 this season.

The Coyotes have won 12 of 16 to move one point ahead of Minnesota for the final Western Conference wild card.

Jaden Schwartz scored for St. Louis, and Jordan Binnington stopped 19 shots.

STARS 2, SABRES 0

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — Ben Bishop made 35 saves for his third straight shutout, leading Dallas to the victory.

Bishop extended his career-best shutout streak to 204 minutes, 20 seconds. It's the second-longest run for a Stars goaltender behind Ed Belfour's streak of 219 minutes, 26 seconds that ran from Nov. 17-24, 2000. □



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Same tournament, new course with Players moving to March

By DOUG FERGUSON AP
Golf Writer

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla.

(AP) — Justin Thomas has played the 15th hole at The Players Championship some 20 times, but never this early in the year. That's why he turned to his caddy for some last-minute advice during a practice round.

"We don't have to worry about going through the fairway, right?" he asked Jimmy Johnson.

The field is as strong as ever, with everyone from the top 50 in the world ranking in the 144-man field. The prize money is richer than ever at \$12.5 million, with \$2.25 million going to the winner. And it would seem to be the same Stadium Course at the TPC Sawgrass that has hosted the PGA Tour's signature event since 1982. But it's not.

A move to March changes everything.

The Players Championship has gone green, with rye overseed making it lush, green and longer than when it was held in May on Bermuda grass that could be fast and fiery. The prevailing wind can come out of an entirely different direction, which can make that island green on the par-3 17th look a little smaller.

"I've been between 6-iron and 5-iron on 17 to hit the shot," Tiger Woods said. "Not too many people can say that unless they've played in March."

What hasn't changed is handicapping the field. The TPC Sawgrass was renowned in any month for not favoring any one style of golf. It has produced

champions like Woods and Greg Norman, or Fred Funk and Hal Sutton when it was held in March. Moved to May, the winners have similarly varied games, whether it was Phil Mickelson and Jason Day, or Tim Clark and K.J. Choi.

Woods is the only player to win in March and May. He has done a lot of things no one else has.

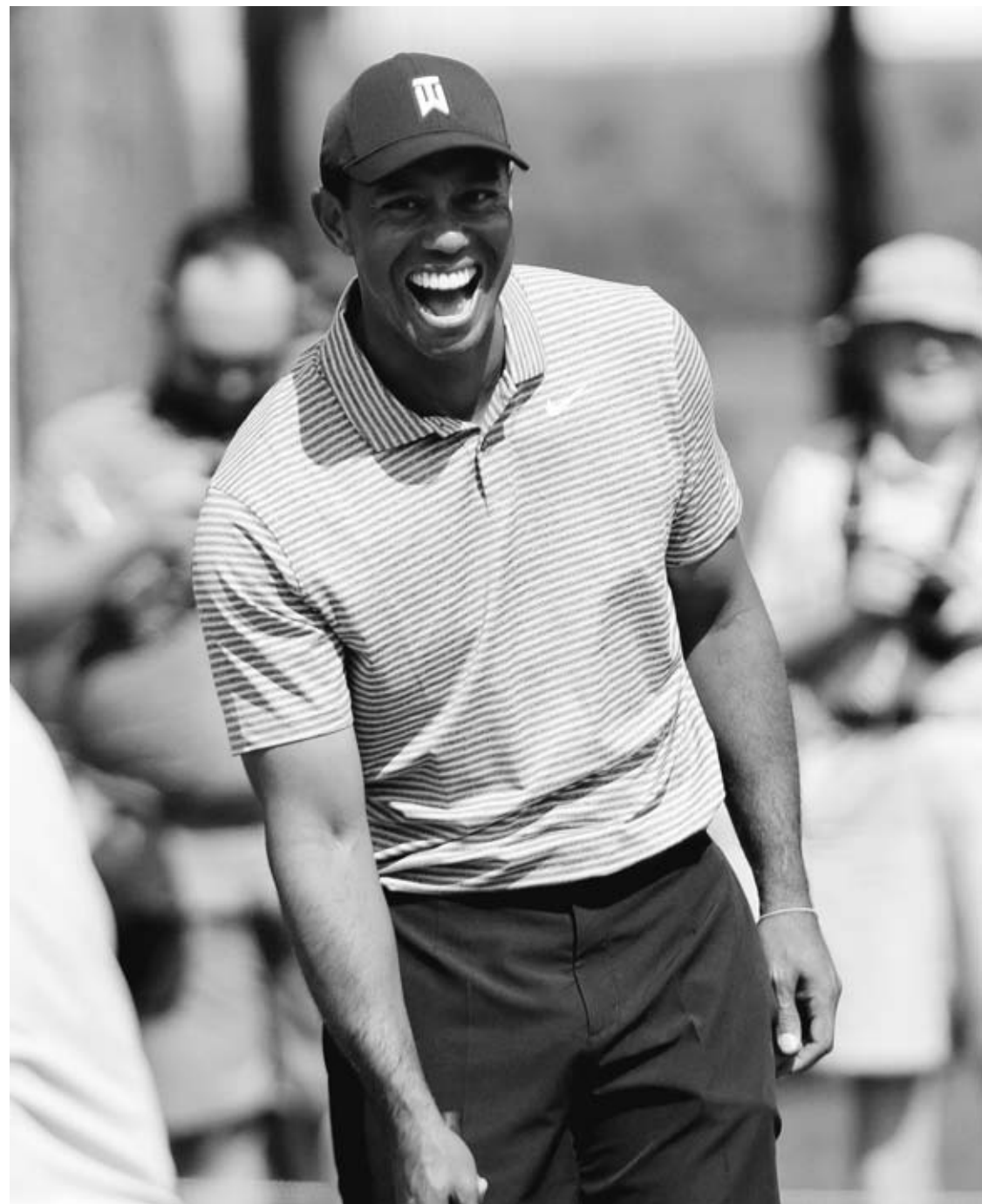
It all starts to unfold on Thursday, with only 23 players having experienced the March conditions before the move to May in 2007. Woods and Adam Scott are the only players at Sawgrass who have won The Players when it was in March.

"I think we're in for a good challenge this week," Scott said. "It's not brutally difficult, but if the wind blows, it's going to play tough."

Heavy rain earlier in the week made the fairways even softer and speckled some golf balls with mud — something else rarely seen in May — but Scott noticed the difference immediately.

"I hit a 5-iron into the first hole," he said. "I have hit anything but a 9-iron or a wedge in there for 12 years. A lot of other holes are like that, too. So if it does firm up a little bit, even if you're hitting 7-iron into the first, I think it's going to require some really good driving and some really good irons. I think it's a great test."

Dustin Johnson is among those who look forward to the move to March, even though he has only played this event in May. He hasn't played it every well, not by his standards or anyone else who has reached No.



Tiger Woods laughs after putting on the fifth hole during a practice round at The Players Championship golf tournament, Wednesday, March 13, 2019, in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.

Associated Press

1 in the world and has 20 victories for his career.

Johnson, coming off a five-shot victory in Mexico City three weeks ago, has never finished higher than a tie for 12th in his 10 starts. He has only five rounds in the 60s. "Just judging the distance, balls going miles and would never stop in the fairways," Johnson said. "I feel like good shots weren't always rewarded with the way the course was playing. But yeah, I struggled. It was frustrating, too."

Woods, who played nine holes on Tuesday and nine

holes on Wednesday, had one of those moments that Scott described. During his practice round on Tuesday, he hit a 3-wood bullet off the tee, just like always. But instead of hitting 9-iron, he went with a 3-iron.

One thing hasn't changed as far as Woods is concerned.

"It's a very simple formula here: Hit it good," Woods said. "It's not real complicated."

The golf course is one that Pete (Dye) has set up to intimidate you visually. You have to overcome

that part of it. And no, you can't really play poorly and win this event. I think we all have to accept that you're going to hit good shots, and going to get some weird hopes, and get some really, really funky lies whether it's off the fairway or around the greens."

No one played better last year than Webb Simpson, who built such a big lead in tying the 54-hole record that he shot a 73 in the final round — the highest Sunday score by a PGA Tour winner last year — and still won by four shots. □



Philipp Kohlschreiber, of Germany, reacts after defeating Novak Djokovic, of Serbia, at the BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament Tuesday, March 12, 2019 in Indian Wells, Calif.

Associated Press

Bad day for No. 1s: Djokovic, Osaka upset at Indian Wells

INDIAN WELLS, Calif. (AP) — It was a tough day for seeded players at the BNP Paribas Open on Tuesday, with Novak Djokovic and Naomi Osaka, the world's top-ranked players, ushered out in the desert.

Djokovic and Philipp Kohlschreiber resumed their third-round match that was suspended because of rain a night earlier. The unseeded German knocked off the five-time tournament champion 6-4, 6-4.

Osaka lost to Belinda Bencic 6-3, 6-1 in just over an hour in the fourth round of the first title defense of her career.

"She sort of came out there really aggressive," Osaka said. "She sort of knew what she wanted to do more than me."

Since Osaka won the title at Indian Wells a year ago, she won the U.S. and Australian Opens. Her triumph in Australia made her No. 1 for the first time, but her time at the top has been rocky. Osaka fired her coach and lost in the first round in Dubai before taking on a new coach, Jermaine Jenkins, who came on court during the match. "It's always a bit tricky whenever you change someone in the team, but I feel like

for a first tournament we did really well," Osaka said. "We communicate well, so I think that's a really big plus. I don't think it's going to be difficult."

On Tuesday, the 23rd-ranked Bencic served and returned better.

Venus Williams reached the quarterfinals with a 6-4, 6-4 win over Mona Barthel. She'll next face No. 8 Angelique Kerber, who beat No. 9 Aryna Sabalenka 6-1, 4-6, 6-4.

"I haven't played that much, so I wanted to make it count," said Williams, who is ranked No. 36 and expects to play about 12 tournaments this year. "I need to do what I want, and what I want is to play the tournaments I want to play."

The bottom half of the men's draw still includes No. 2 seed Rafael Nadal and fourth-seeded Roger Federer, both of whom breezed to victory.

Nadal eased by 25th-seeded Diego Schwartzman 6-3, 6-1, while Federer defeated Swiss countryman Stan Wawrinka 6-3, 6-4.

"Overall it's not been easy playing Stan," Federer said. "He feels the same way, so that's very awkward sometimes." Djokovic owned an

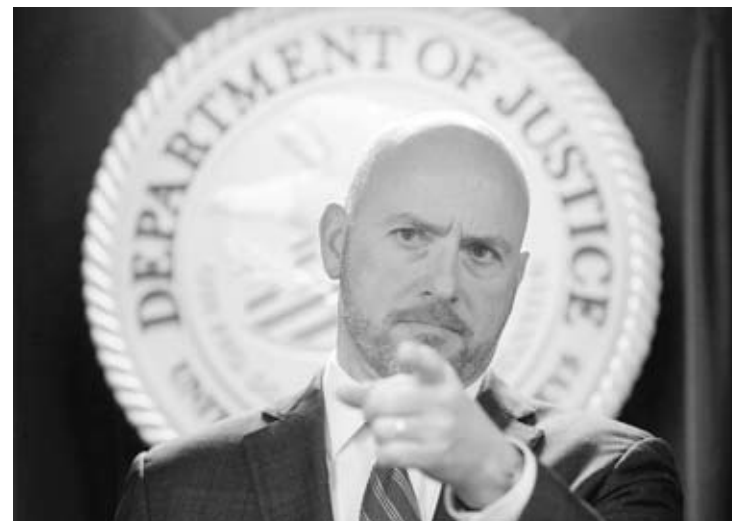
8-1 record against Kohlschreiber, who beat a No. 1 player for the first time.

Kohlschreiber liked the weather — sunshine and temperatures in the low 70s — much better than the cold and rain on Tuesday night.

"I liked my chances more at night against Kohlschreiber, but it wasn't to be last night," Djokovic said. "Completely different conditions today. I congratulate him for playing tactically really well and getting me out of my comfort zone. He deserved to win."

The 35-year-old German started thinking he had a chance early in the first set when he survived a handful of break points on his serve. "I would say after 3-all in the first set I felt like getting closer to the set, holding my service games, which is not easy against Novak, because he's such a great returner," Kohlschreiber said. "I know from that point on it's going to be a very interesting match."

Djokovic was just 1 for 5 on break-point opportunities. Kohlschreiber converted three of his four chances. Next up for Kohlschreiber is Gael Monfils, who owns a 13-2 record against the German. □



U.S. Attorney for District of Massachusetts Andrew Lelling announces indictments in a sweeping college admissions bribery scandal, during a news conference, Tuesday, March 12, 2019, in Boston.

Associated Press

SCANDAL

Continued from Page 17

They were paying bribes, not tuition, and every spot they managed to secure for their kid at a top college meant another kid far more deserving would not be admitted.

Just rich people enjoying the privilege of being rich. Nothing to see here or at least there wasn't until those indicted began showing up for their perp walks at courtrooms later Tuesday.

Corruption in college sports is hardly surprising, of course. Just last week a federal judge in New York sentenced three men in a recruiting fraud case to prison for conspiring to pay money the other way — to families of basketball recruits they wanted for various schools, and a second trial next month promises to highlight even more misdeeds. That scandal drew the usual hand-wringing about pay to play and the sordid influence big money has in big college athletics. The NCAA, as is its wont, appointed a commission headed by former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to study the matter, with predictable results.

But no one could say they saw this coming. The sports were minor, but the money was major. The women's water polo coach at USC was charged with taking \$250,000 to say two students applying for admission were recruits for the team so they could get into the school. The sailing coach at Stanford admitted he, too, accepted

\$270,000 to falsely promote two students as prospective sailors so they would be admitted to the school. And at Yale, former women's soccer coach Rudolph Meredith is charged with taking \$400,000 to declare a Yale applicant a recruit even though he knew she didn't play soccer. The indictments also allege that Meredith met with the father of another Yale applicant last April in a Boston hotel room and offered her a recruit designation for \$450,000. The money was enormous, which makes the scandal tasty enough. But this one has a bit of everything, from Hollywood actresses to Vegas casino executives to New York financiers. And, interestingly enough, some kids who had no idea their parents were buying their way in.

The sheer breadth of the case is staggering, though some of the ways used to manipulate the system weren't exactly Ivy League worthy. In some cases head shots were photo-shopped onto athlete bodies, while in others stories were simply made up about teams kids played on — one was conveniently in China — and awards they won.

Then again, the scheme in the other FBI probe of college sports wasn't exactly rocket science either. And there were plenty of willing accomplices among major colleges, according to testimony in the New York trial that showed schools lined up to ply the families of some players with up to \$150,000 to get them to their school. □

Iditarod winner's journey began as a boy racing sled dogs

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)

— A young Pete Kaiser had the drive to learn about racing sled dogs and the family and community to support his passion. Years later, he won his first Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race.

Growing up, Kaiser had plenty of sled dogs to choose from at his parents' kennel in Bethel, a rural community in southwest Alaska. He got his first taste of success as a senior in high school when he won a 65-mile (105-kilometer) race. From there, the competitions and prizes kept getting bigger.

On Wednesday, the 31-year-old captured the crowning glory in the sport, the Iditarod, a grueling test against the wildest terrain Alaska has to offer. Kaiser crossed the finish line in the Gold Rush town of Nome after beating back a challenge from the defending champion, Joar Ulsom of Norway.

Ulsom finished the race just 12 minutes after Kaiser, who took 9 days, 12 hours, 39 minutes and 6 seconds to complete the 1,000-mile (1,600-kilometer) journey over two mountain ranges, along the frozen Yukon River and across the treacherous, wind-swept Bering Sea coast.

It's Kaiser's first Iditarod victory in his 10th try. He said he wasn't sure what made everything come together for him this year.

"Just years of knowledge gained and trying to put it all together to have a better race, better dog team this year — every little detail coming into play," he



Peter Kaiser (9) poses with his lead dogs, Morrow, left, and Lucy, right, Wednesday, March 13, 2019, in Nome, Alaska, after winning the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race.

Associated Press

said in a post-victory interview televised from the finish line.

Kaiser became the fifth Alaska Native and first Yupik musher to win the world's most famous sled dog race.

Veteran Iditarod musher Mike Williams Sr. has been friends with the Kaiser family and watched Pete's career progress. His victory lifts up not only the Yupik people but all southwest Alaska, Williams said.

"It's going to make 35,000 people proud," Williams said. "I think he's going to be a great representative for us."

A large group of residents from Bethel, Kaiser's hometown, flew in to see his victory. Alaska Native dancers

and drummers performed near the finish line as they waited for Kaiser to arrive, even though it was past 3 a.m.

Kaiser called the support "extremely humbling, and it motivates me every day to perform to my best, and I just want to thank them for coming out here tonight." When he was young, Kaiser went to races like the Kuskokwim 300, an annual mid-distance race in Bethel, to learn everything he could from the mushers. That includes Ed Iten, a veteran musher whose best Iditarod finish was second place in 2005.

"He was a young boy then and came over and helped me feed the dogs," Iten said. "Then he went

from helping out when I was in Bethel feeding my dogs to eventually whipping my butt in the Kusko 300, so he's a quick study." Kaiser, who counts Iten as his mentor, went on to win four Kuskokwim 300 races. "It just couldn't be better," Iten said of Kaiser's Iditarod victory. "We've been waiting for this. There's been no doubt in my mind that he was going to get it sooner or later."

Dogs are in the Kaiser family's blood. Pete's father, Ron, raced dogs for a few years and then kept an active kennel. His mother, Janet, managed the Kuskokwim 300.

Kaiser, who is married with two children, mushes in the winter and gets seasonal

summer jobs on top of managing the kennel.

Sled dog races don't have lucrative jackpots — Kaiser picked up about \$50,000 and a new truck for winning the world's premier competition. The prize money is down about \$20,000 from what the 2017 winner received.

This year's race was marked by the stunning collapse of Frenchman Nicolas Petit, who was seemingly headed for victory as late as Monday. He had a five-hour lead until his dog team stopped running.

Petit said one dog was picking on another during a rest break, and he yelled at the dog to knock it off. At that point, the entire team refused to run. He had to withdraw.

Fifty-two mushers began this year's race. Petit was among 10 who withdrew.

The 2019 race came during a bruising two-year stretch for the Iditarod that included a dog doping scandal and the loss of national sponsors amid protests by animal rights activists. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals is the biggest critic.

"Hundreds of dogs (including six from Pete Kaiser's team) were so sick, exhausted, or injured that they were pulled from the race, forcing the ones remaining to work even harder, struggling on in what is a grueling test — not of human endurance but of a dog's ability to survive extreme cruelty," PETA Executive Vice President Tracy Reiman said in a statement after Kaiser's victory. □

Tony Stewart headlines new nominees for NASCAR Hall of Fame

By JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) —

Three-time NASCAR champion Tony Stewart headlined the six new nominees eligible for induction into the NASCAR Hall of Fame. Stewart joined Neil Bonnett, a popular member of the "Alabama Gang," two-time Xfinity Series champion Sam Ard, former Daytona 500 winner Marvin Panch,

short-track racer Jim Paschal and mechanic Red Vogt as the new nominees. Kirk Shelmerdine, crew chief for four championships with Hall of Famer Dale Earnhardt, was dropped from the ballot after only one year. There are 20 nominees and five are elected each year.

NASCAR also announced three new nominees for the Landmark Award given for

outstanding contributions to the sport. It meant Janet Guthrie was eliminated from the list after one year. Guthrie was the first woman to compete in the Indianapolis 500 as well as the Daytona 500, and her sixth-place finish at Bristol Motor Speedway in 1977 is shared with Danica Patrick for the top finish by a female in NASCAR's top series in the modern era.

Three new nominees were added to the Landmark Award list and they were Edsel Ford II of Ford Motor Co., Pocono Raceway founder Dr. Joseph Mattioli and Mike Helton, the first non-France family member to be named NASCAR President.

The 24-person nominating committee includes eight NASCAR executives, as well as Lesa France Kenne-

dy, who is listed among 13 track owners and operators with voting power. □



At age 30, World Wide Web is 'not the web we wanted'

By JAMEY KEATEN

Associated Press

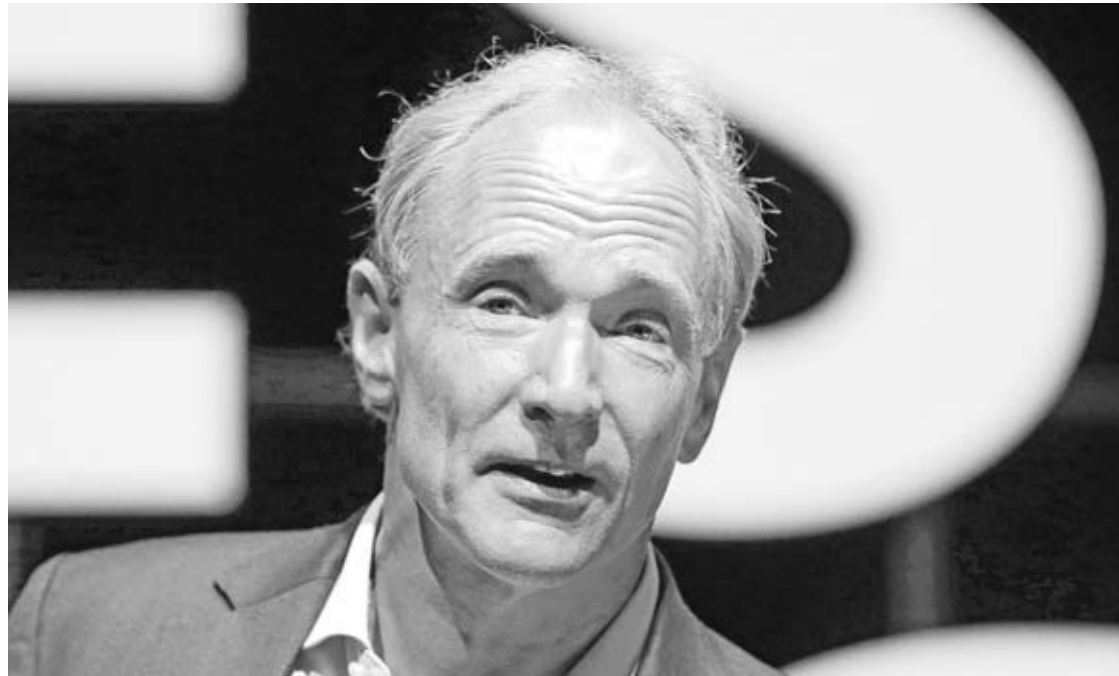
GENEVA (AP) — At the ripe old age of 30 and with half the globe using it, the World Wide Web is facing growing pains with issues like hate speech, privacy concerns and state-sponsored hacking, its creator says, trumpeting a call to make it better for humanity.

Tim Berners-Lee on Tuesday joined a celebration of the Web and reminisced about his invention at CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research, starting with a proposal published on March 12, 1989. It opened the way to a technological revolution that has transformed the way people buy goods, share ideas, get information and much more.

It's also become a place where tech titans scoop up personal data, rival governments spy and seek to scuttle elections, and hate speech and vitriol have thrived — taking the Web far from its roots as a space for progress-oriented minds to collaborate.

As of late 2018, half of the world was online, with the other half often struggling to secure access.

Speaking at a "Web@30" conference at CERN, Bern-



In this Tuesday, June 23, 2015 file photo, English computer scientist Tim Berners-Lee, best known as the inventor of the World Wide Web, attends the Cannes Lions 2015, International Advertising Festival in Cannes, southern France.

Associated Press

ers-Lee acknowledged that a sense among many who are already on the Web has become: "Whoops! The web is not the web we wanted in every respect."

His World Wide Web Foundation wants to enlist governments, companies, and citizens to take a greater role in shaping the web for good under principles laid out in its "Contract for the Web."

Under the contract, governments are called upon to make sure everyone can

connect to the internet, to keep it available and to respect privacy. Companies are to make the internet affordable, respect privacy and develop technology that will put people — and the "public good" — first. Citizens are to create and to cooperate and respect "civil discourse," among other things.

"The Contract for the Web is about sitting down in working groups with other people who signed up, and to say, 'Ok, let's work

out what this really means,'" Berners-Lee said. It was unclear, however, how such rules would be enforced. Berners-Lee cautioned it was important to strike a balance between oversight and freedom but difficult to agree what it should be.

"Where is the balance between leaving the tech companies to do the right thing and regulating them? Where is the balance between freedom of speech and hate speech?" he said.

The conference, which brought together internet and tech experts, also gave CERN the chance to showcase its reputation as an open-source incubator of ideas. Berners-Lee worked there in the late 1980s, and had been determined to help bridge a communications and documentation gap among different computer platforms.

As a young English software engineer at CERN, Berners-Lee, who is now 63, came up with the idea for hypertext transfer protocol — the "http" that adorns web addresses — and other building blocks for the web.

The "http" system allowed text and small images to be retrieved through a piece of software — the first browser — which Berners-Lee released in 1990 and is considered the start of the web. In practice, the access to a browser on a home computer made the internet easily accessible to consumers for the first time. Speaking to reporters on Monday, Berners-Lee recalled how his research was helped by his former boss at CERN, Mike Sendall, who wanted a pretext to buy a then-new Next computer by Steve Jobs' Apple needed for his research. □

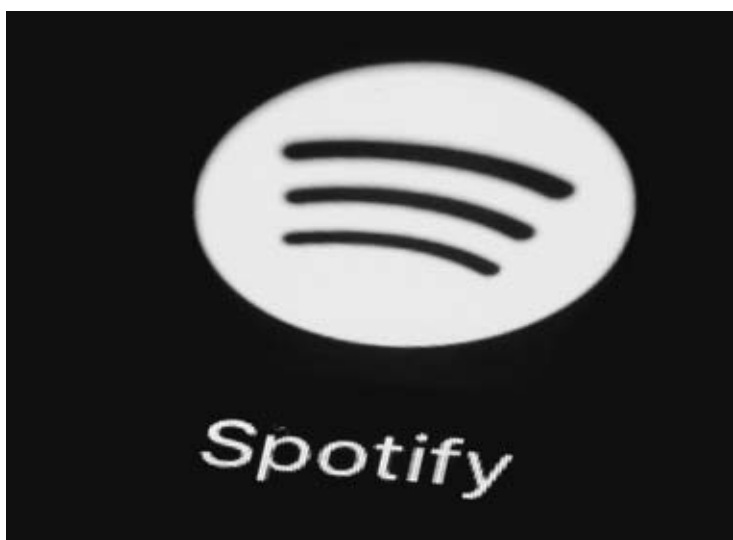
Spotify files antitrust complaint to EU against Apple

By KELVIN CHAN

LONDON (AP) — Swedish music site Spotify has complained to European Union regulators about Apple for allegedly abusing its dominant position in music streaming and stifling competition.

Spotify founder Daniel Ek said Wednesday that the company has filed a formal antitrust complaint with the executive European Commission against Apple — a move that adds to the debate about how to rein in the power of big-tech.

Writing in a blog post, Ek said Apple is acting "as both a player and referee to deliberately disadvantage other app developers" by bringing in new rules



This March 20, 2018 file photo shows the Spotify app on an iPad in Baltimore.

Associated Press

to its App Store that intentionally limit choice and constrain innovation.

The company takes issue with how Apple acts as a

gatekeeper to the internet by controlling important platforms such as its iOS mobile operating system and the App Store, while

also competing against services like Spotify with its Apple Music service.

Apple's media team in Britain did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The European Commission said it has received Spotify's complaint, which it is assessing under its "standard procedures."

Spotify's beef with Apple centers on a 30 percent tax it and other digital services have to pay whenever they use Apple's "in-app" payment system to process user purchases such as upgrading subscriptions. The charge makes Spotify's premium membership more expensive than Apple Music, so the company said it refuses to use the system. But if it shuns

Apple's payment system, Spotify alleges that Apple blocks app upgrades or stops it from working with Apple services like Siri assistant.

U.S. tech giants have already come under intense scrutiny from EU authorities for their behavior. Apple was ordered in 2016 to repay \$15 billion in taxes to Ireland by EU competition commissioner Margrethe Vestager, who has also slapped Google with multi-billion-dollar antitrust fines. Spotify and German rival Deezer were among European tech industry players that issued a joint letter last year calling on EU ministers to get tougher on unfair business practices by U.S. tech giants. □

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Penthouse condo w/ jacuzzi
& private roof top patio



US stocks rise, led by technology and health care

By DAMIAN J. TROISE
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. rose broadly in morning trading on Wall Street Wednesday, powered by technology and health care companies, as the market pushes for its third straight day of gains.

The broader market has been rebounding this week following its worst week since December. The Dow Jones Industrial Average joined other indexes in moving higher after it was weighed down for several days by drops in Boeing. Chipmaker Nvidia added 3.1 percent, helping to lead technology stocks higher. CVS Health rose 3.7 percent as health care stocks rose broadly. Rite Aid climbed 3.7 percent after the drugstore operator announced a management purge.

Several government reports gave investors an up-

beat view of the economy. U.S. wholesale prices barely increased last month after falling for three straight months, a sign there is little inflation pressure in the economy. A report on orders to U.S. factories showed that business investment rose 0.8 percent after two months of declines, marking the biggest gain since a 1.5 percent July bump.

Investors are still waiting for details on a potential trade deal between the U.S. and China, and the British Parliament is set to vote on whether the country should crash out of the European Union on March 29 without a deal.

KEEPING SCORE: The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 115 points, or 0.4 percent, to 25,666 as of 10:45 a.m. The S&P 500 rose 0.6 percent and the Nasdaq composite rose 0.6 percent.



Traders gather at the post that handles Oaktree Capital Group on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Wednesday, March 13, 2019.

Associated Press

RITE AID PURGE: The drug-store chain rose 3.1 percent after it announced a purge of its top management and plans to cut 400 full-time jobs.

CEO John Stanley will step down when the company finds a replacement. Chief Financial Officer Darren Kast and Chief Operating Officer Kermit Crawford are also among the executives

leaving the company.

PELTZ SEES GREEN: The Canadian marijuana company Aurora Cannabis surged 8.6 percent after it tapped hedge fund manager Nelson Peltz as an adviser.

Peltz is the CEO and a founding partner of Trian Fund Management. Aurora said he will help the company explore potential partnerships and advise its

global expansion plans.

BRANCHING OUT: Oaktree Capital Management surged on news that Brookfield Asset Management is buying 62 percent of the company. The deal creates a combined company with \$475 billion assets and \$2.5 billion in annual fee-related revenue, the companies said. The deal includes options that could have Brookfield owning all of Oaktree by 2029.

IN THE BAG: Vera Bradley surged 18.8 percent after beating Wall Street forecasts for the fourth quarter and giving analysts a surprisingly good outlook for the year.

The maker of luggage and handbags reported lower sales during the quarter, but the results still topped forecasts. Both revenue and profit forecasts for the current fiscal push beyond Wall Street expectations. □

US construction spending up strong 1.3 percent in January

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Spending on U.S. construction projects in January posted the biggest gain in nine months, as strength in nonresidential construction and government projects offset continued weakness in home construction.

The Commerce Department says that construction spending rose 1.3 per-

cent in January following two months of declines. It was the biggest gain since spending was up 1.7 percent in April. Spending on residential projects fell 0.3 percent in January, the sixth consecutive monthly decline for a sector that was hurt last year by rising mortgage rates and higher home building costs.

Spending on nonresidential construction increased

0.8 percent in January with spending on office buildings, hotels and the category that covers shopping centers all showing gains.

Spending on government projects jumped 4.9 percent, the biggest increase since March 2004. The January strength reflected a 4.9 percent rise in spending on state and local building projects and a 4.2 percent rise in federal construction

spending.

It pushed total public construction spending to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$313.6 billion, the highest level since September 2010.

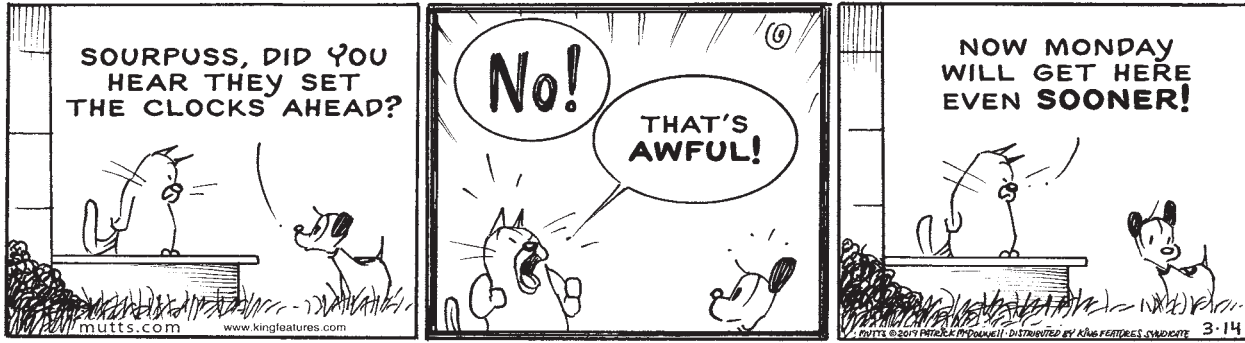
The 1.3 percent overall gain pushed total spending to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1.28 trillion.

The weakness in home construction in January reflected a 0.7 percent fall in

spending on single-family homes which was partially offset by a 1.4 percent rise in the smaller apartment sector.

Home construction has been weak over the past year, falling at an annual rate of 3.5 percent in the fourth quarter. That helped lower overall growth in the fourth quarter to a rate of 2.6 percent. □

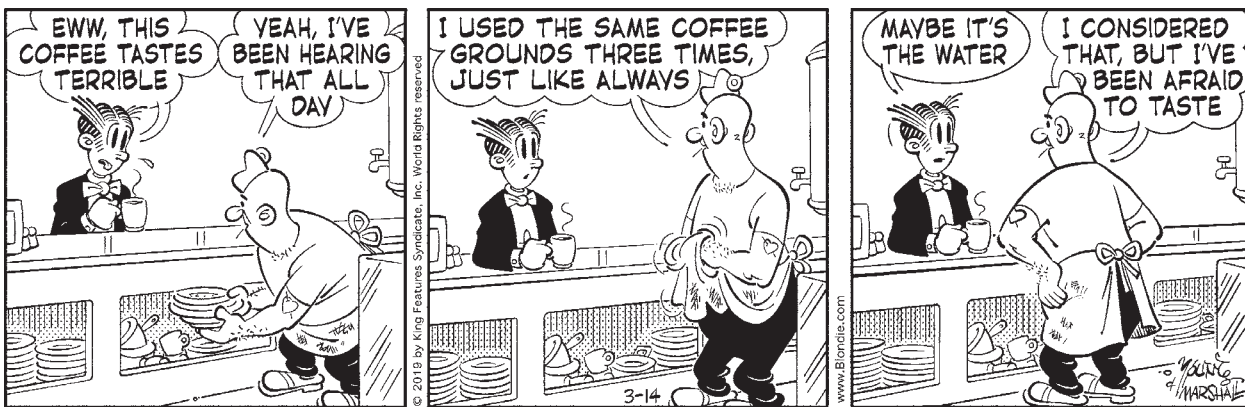
Mutts



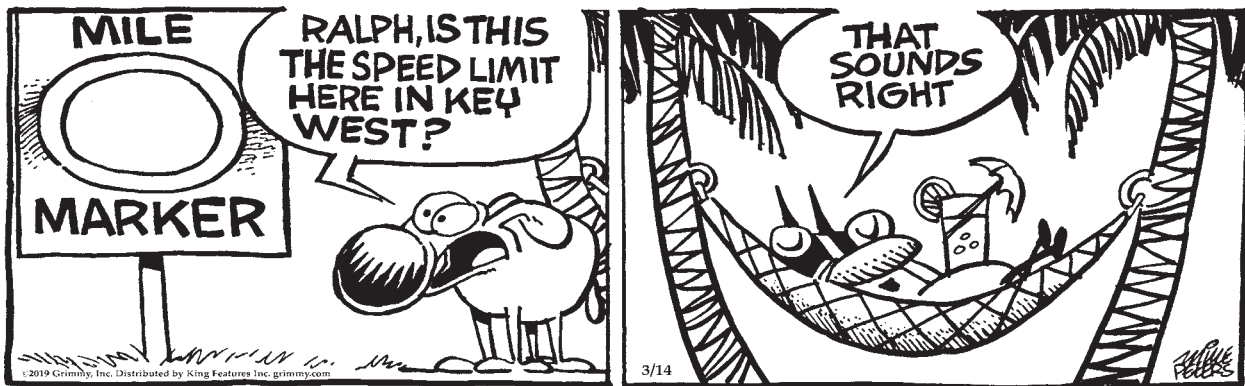
6 Chix



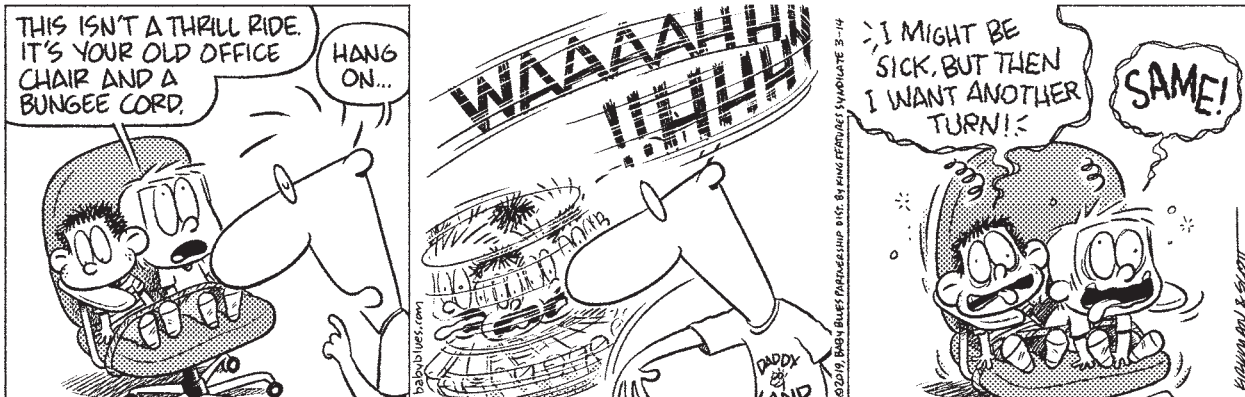
Blondie



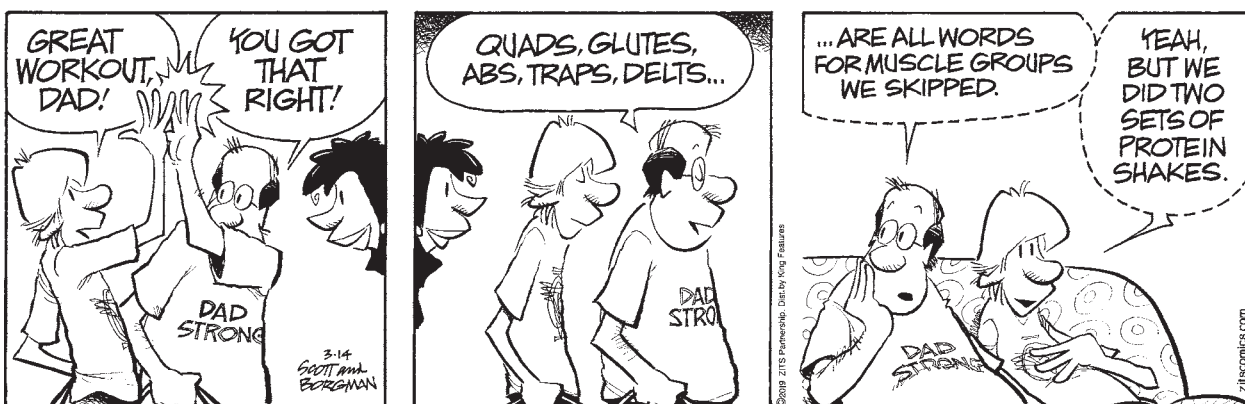
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

4								2
			6		7			
1	7						4	3
	4			2			1	
3	9						7	6
	6			5			9	
8	2						3	9
			5		8			
9								8

Difficulty Level ★★

3/14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

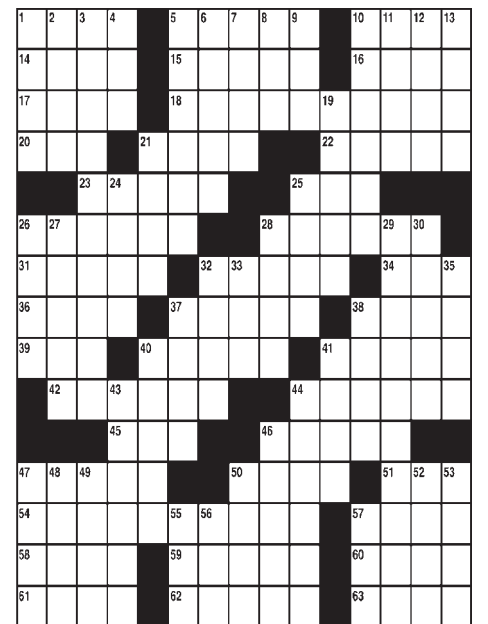
2	5	8	1	7	9	6	3	4
3	9	7	6	2	4	1	5	8
4	1	6	5	8	3	7	2	9
9	4	3	8	1	5	2	7	6
8	7	1	4	6	2	3	9	5
6	2	5	9	3	7	4	8	1
5	6	2	7	9	1	8	4	3
7	8	4	3	5	6	9	1	2
1	3	9	2	4	8	5	6	7

ACROSS

- Walk by
- Disguises
- Early man
- Daredevil Knievel
- "Bye, Pierre!"
- Long story
- Easter flower
- Circus leader
- Suffix for Nepal or Japan
- Reserve a room
- Nourishes
- Pandemonium
- In good shape
- One of the planets
- Man of the cloth
- Go out on ; take a risk
- Felony
- 11/11 honoree
- Make a mess at table
- Check recipient
- Colt's mother
- Stealing or cursing
- Adjusted a piano
- Ointment
- Flee
- Bothers
- Fleur-de-
- Short-lived
- Goes on ; continues
- Cry
- WWII president
- Hairdresser
- Grow weary
- Give, but expect back
- firm; dry land
- Decorated a cake
- Uneasy
- Grains planted
- Latest information

DOWN

- Soccer great
- Rental car agency
- Choices
- Devious
- Shade of red
- "Bye, Juan!"
- Basin
- Beer barrel
- Total
- Valuables
- Go out with
- Elderly
- Defaces
- Blazing
- Fishhook's end
- Camel's feature
- Renown
- Talk back
- TV's "Kate & "
- "The Piper of Hamelin"
- Where to find Trump's desk
- Cheeky
- Charlie Chaplin's prop
- Bread for a Reuben
- Ball holders
- Baby dogs
- Lion's neck hair
- Contaminate
- Tiny cut
- Weather forecast
- Sports buildings
- Vandyke, for one
- Suffix for comfort or fashion
- Have to have
- "Phooey!"
- Metal thread
- Sketched
- Cincinnati team
- "Complicated"; Meryl Streep film
- So-so grade
- Cheap metal



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

3/14/19

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

BATH	ALLS	ARMS
EQUAL	LIEU	SOAP
SURGE	LEGISLATE	
TAP	SHE	TEAMED
ESSAY	CAN	
DANIEL	BALTIC	
ALTAR	AMASS	NAP
SLIM	PLANE	MEMO
HEN	GALES	SAVED
NEARLY	PERILS	
MIA	JANET	
ABRUPT	ONA	APR
BRASSIERE	TABLE	
LANE	AWAY	ELLEN
EGGS	LETS	SEAT

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3/14/19

Classifieds

Halley Time Travel

Divi Village

Sunday Check in building F
1 BR WK # 8 & 9 Same room
rd floor with 21 and 25 weeks
remain
on the contract \$9000 Each

Divi Links Golf

Saturday Check in Eagle 15
1BR WK 8 & 9 with 27
weeks remain \$9000 each
Eagle Resorts & Casino
1 Br WK 7 Ground floor \$5500

Divi Village

Building C Elevator
2 BR WK 13 \$14K
3rd floor with 29/8 accelerated
weeks remain
Divi Links Golf
Birdie 1
1 BR WK 11 & 12 \$9 K each
2 sd floor with 25 weeks remain

Divi Links Golf

Birdie 1
Studio WK 11 \$8 K
2 sd floor with 27 weeks remain
Divi Village
Building C
1 BR WK #14 \$7500
1st floor with 16 weeks remain

La Cabana Beach and Casino

Sunday Check in
1 BR WK 11 & 12 \$18 K Both
weeks
4th floor pool/ocean view
Renaissance suites
1 BR WK 9 \$9 K
4th floor harbor /ocean view

Marriott Ocean Club

Platinum Weeks
1 BR Ocean View \$12 K
2 BR Ocean View \$17 K
2 BR Ocean Front \$28 K

Marriott Surf Club

Platinum
2 BR Garden View \$15 K
2 BR Ocean View \$16 K
2 BR Ocean Side \$17 K
2 BR Ocean Front \$27 K
3 BR Ocean View \$27 K

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Barba di Jucuman street \$335K
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Janana
3 BR , 2 bath , 1 apartment
\$330K
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and Baby Beach, Historic sites,
Red district service to and from
Ambassador Wing CDM
1 BR 2sd floor pool View \$7500

HalleyTimeTravelAruba.

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Nature's best Mountains,
Rivers,Jungle,
Guatape, CityShoppingTour
and muchmore.
Sp/Eng/Dutch/Papiamentto
speaking Guides.
WorldFamous HealthService
Orientation.

Aruba Divi Phoenix

2 BR PH WK # 11 & 12
Building 9 7th Floor
33 Weeks remain \$25K each
1 BR WK #11
Building 7 3rd floor
34 weeks remain \$15 K

Dutch Village

Studio wk # 9
building 13 on the 2sd floor
with 29 weeks remain \$8000
Eagle Resorts and casino
1 BR WK # 9 on the 5th floor
Friday Check in Renovated room
\$7000

Aruba Divi Phoenix

1 BR 1 1/2 bath PH
wk 8&9 14 th floor
29 & 32 weeks remain \$17,500
each 1br wk # 10
Building # 8 on the 6th
28 weeks remain \$15K

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10/1207(\$15,000);
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Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448

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A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

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American Airlines	582 2700
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CRUISES



March 14
Carnival Horizon
March 19
Celebrity Silhouette

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Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989

Women in Difficulties
Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118

Call: 630 1307 johnnypaesch@gmail.com



U.S, regulators clear path for genetically modified salmon

By CANDICE CHOI

AP Food & Health Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. regulators on Friday gave the green light to salmon genetically modified to grow about twice as fast as normal, but the company behind it may face legal challenges before the fish can be sold domestically.

The Food and Drug Administration said it lifted an alert that had prevented AquaBounty from importing its salmon eggs to its Indiana facility, where they would be grown before being sold as food. The agency noted the salmon has already undergone safety reviews, and that it lifted its alert because the fish would be subject to a new regulation that will require companies to disclose when a food is bioengineered.

The move comes despite a pending lawsuit filed by a coalition of consumer, environmental and fishing groups that challenged the FDA's approval of the fish. "We think a remedy in our case would stop sale of the fish before they're allowed to be sold," said George Kimbrell, legal director for the Center for Food Safety, one of the groups suing the FDA.

AquaBounty was founded



This 2009 photo provided by AquaBountyTechnologies shows a juvenile salmon raised at the company's hatchery in Fortune, Prince Edward Island, Canada.

Associated Press

in 1991, and it has been working through years of safety reviews and regulatory hurdles to sell its fish in the United States. In 2015, its salmon became the first genetically modified animal approved by the FDA for human consumption. But the agency subsequently issued an alert that stopped the Maynard, Massachusetts-based company from importing its fish eggs until disclosure guidelines for genetically modified foods were resolved. Called AquAdvantage, the

fish is Atlantic salmon modified with DNA from other fish species to grow faster, which the company says will help feed growing demand for animal protein while reducing costs.

AquaBounty CEO Sylvia Wulf said the company expects to get a final certification for its Albany, Indiana, growing facility in the coming weeks. Salmon eggs could then be sent from the company's research and development facility in Canada, and would be harvested after about 18

months when they reach 10 pounds, she said.

Wulf said it's been difficult to engage companies in sales discussions because AquaBounty didn't know when it could start growing the fish in the United States. She said the salmon already has been sold in limited quantities in Canada, where it doesn't have to be labeled as genetically modified. Wulf said she doesn't expect the pending lawsuit to affect the company's U.S. plans.

The genetically modified

salmon are raised in tanks and bred to be female and sterile, measures designed to address any fears that they might get into the environment and breed with wild fish.

But Kimbrell, of the Center for Food Safety, said the company's own tests have shown it's not 100 percent certain the fish would be sterile, and that concerns about it getting in the environment would grow if the company's operations were to expand.

He also noted the disclosure regulation uses the term "bioengineered,"

even though most people are more familiar with the term genetically modified. And he pointed out that companies can provide disclosure through codes that have to be scanned.

Implementation of that regulation starts in 2020, though people may start seeing disclosures on packages sooner. Compliance becomes mandatory in 2022.

The genetic modification for AquaBounty's fish is different from gene-editing technology, which lets scientists snip out specific genes to bring about traits without introducing foreign DNA. □



This Sept. 12, 2015, photo provided by Jacqueline Sones shows a Janolus nudibranch in Bodega Harbor, Calif.

Associated Press

Species by the dozen moved north during marine heatwaves

By JANIE HAR

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Dozens of species of sea slugs, jellyfish and other marine life from toastier southern waters migrated into the Northern California region over an unusually long two-year period of severe heatwaves, says a new scientific report.

The 67 species identified in the report include a carnivorous sea slug that preys on other sea slugs and a sea snail "butterfly" usually spotted hundreds of miles away off the coast of Mexico. The study by the University of California, Davis is to be published Tuesday in Scientific Reports.

Not all the species stuck

around, but the abundance of migration provides a glimpse of what the Northern California coast might look like in the future, said Eric Sanford, lead author and UC Davis professor.

"I've been working here for 14 years and before our very eyes we are seeing a shift in the local marine communities," he said.

The 2014-2016 period studied by researchers began in the Gulf of Alaska as a persistently warm patch in 2013 known as the "warm-water Blob" that spread south. Later, an El Nino event along the equator moved north, and the two factors led to unusually

warm waters.

Temperatures in Northern California waters, which normally range from 50 to 55 degrees Fahrenheit (10 to 13 Celsius), increased 3.5 to 7 degrees Fahrenheit.

Larry Crowder, a professor at Stanford University's Hopkins Marine Station who is not affiliated with the study, said the report is impressive in documenting how species respond to change differently and, in some cases, dramatically.

He said the report could help studies in fisheries management.

Of the 67 species, researchers documented 37 had set new records in traveling north. □

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Kesha to headline Dan Reynolds' LGBTQ festival LOVELOUD

NEW YORK (AP) — Kesha wants you to bring as much glitter as possible and sport the brightest colors of the rainbow when she visits Utah in June to headline the LOVELOUD Festival, the LGBTQ+ event founded by Imagine Dragons' frontman Dan Reynolds.

And if you're "skeptical or don't understand the LGBTQ community," Kesha invites you to attend to help change your perception.

"Please come and let me know if you don't have the best time ever at this show because it's going to be such a celebration of love. I think it's going to be pretty undeniable to be sitting in an arena full of love, and not feel how beautiful of a feeling it is," Kesha said in a recent interview with The Associated Press.

Others set to perform June 29 at the USANA Amphitheatre in West Valley City, Utah, include Martin Garrix, Tegan & Sara, Laura Jane Grace, Daya, K. Flay, Grouplove, PVRIS and Reynolds, who is a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, widely known as the Mormon church. Reynolds, who has been an ally to the LGBTQ community for years, launched LOVELOUD as a safe space



This combination photo shows musicians Kesha, left, and Dan Reynolds of Imagine Dragons. Kesha will headline the LOVELOUD Festival, the LGBTQ+ event founded by Reynolds.

Associated Press

for LGBTQ+ youth to feel love and accepted, and to have an open dialogue about teen suicides in the LGBTQ+ community.

Last year's festival featured Apple CEO Tim Cook and raised \$1 million dollars for organizations like The Trevor Project, GLAAD and the Human Rights Campaign. It has set the same goal this year.

"To have a festival that essentially is a gay rights festival and have people from

the faith community come out (and) people from the political realm come out ... just shows that communities and people that society thinks are on very different sides of the page can come together," Reynolds said. "It was the far left, the far right. It was religious and non-(religious) all coming to the table and saying, 'What can we do to fix this problem?'"

In his 2018 HBO documentary, "Believer," Reynolds

showed Latter-day Saint leaders that opposition to same-sex relationships is damaging the self-worth of gay, lesbian and transgender kids. Reynolds, 31, said the festival's goal is to "destigmatize what it means to be LGBTQ especially in these orthodox communities."

"I think with each passing year, we feel like we're making headway; just making it such a conversation in so many homes that it be-

comes a non-conversation. That's the goal obviously, ultimately, so kids don't have to come out. Kids don't feel like it's this grand, scary thing in front of them," he added.

Kesha, 32, said that growing up in Nashville, Tennessee, she had a "hard time with religion and what it meant in conjunction with LGBTQ rights."

"I think it can be confusing," Kesha said. "I just want people to know that whichever side you're on of the conversation to try to approach it delicately because there are people who just need to feel heard and want to feel safe and OK. That's a huge part of why I want to do this festival. Everyone deserves to be who they are, and to be proud of who they are."

Tickets for LOVELOUD, in its third year, go on sale Friday. The festival will be live streamed on AT&T's social media platforms.

Another reason Kesha is excited to headline the event is to honor gay fans who have supported her since she became a chart-topping success in 2010 and rallied behind her when she alleged she was sexually assaulted by her producer Dr. Luke, who has denied the allegations. □

HBO's doc 'Leaving Neverland' becomes a network favorite

By **DAVID BAUDER**
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — HBO's "Leaving Neverland" is heading up the charts.

The unsparing documentary about Michael Jackson and his alleged sexual abuse is already the third most-watched documentary of the past decade at the prime cable network, which takes pride in its documentary schedule. It's likely to surpass "Bright Lights," the movie about Debbie Reynolds and her daughter Carrie Fisher, which is currently in second place, the network said.

The first half of the four-hour program on Jackson has been seen by 3.67 million people, the Nielsen company said. The second half

stands at 2.45 million. Those totals are expected to go up as people catch up with the program through delayed viewing.

HBO's most-watched documentary over the past decade is "Going Clear," about Scientology.

CBS won another week in prime-time behind the soon-to-depart comedy "The Big Bang Theory," and its prequel, "Young Sheldon."

CBS averaged 5.8 million viewers in prime time. ABC had 5.3 million viewers, NBC had 4.7 million, Fox had 2.5 million, ION Television had 1.4 million, Univision had 1.3 million, Telemundo had 1.1 million and the CW had 960,000.

Fox News Channel was the

week's most popular cable network, averaging 2.26 million in prime time. MSNBC had 1.92 million, HGTV had 1.33 million, ESPN had 1.26 million and USA had 1.24 million.

ABC's "World News Tonight" topped the evening newscasts with an average of 9.3 million viewers. NBC's "Nightly News" had 8.6 million and the "CBS Evening News" had 6.3 million.

For the week of March 4-10, the top 10 shows, their networks and viewerships: "The Big Bang Theory," CBS, 13 million; "Young Sheldon," CBS, 11.58 million; "The Voice" (Monday), NBC, 10.97 million; "The Voice" (Tuesday), NBC, 10.22 million; "60 Minutes," CBS, 8.6 million; "Mom," CBS, 8.3



This image released by HBO shows a young Wade Robson shaking hands with pop icon Michael Jackson in 1987, in a scene from the documentary "Leaving Neverland."

Associated Press

million; "Blue Bloods," CBS, 8.26 million; "American Idol" (Wednesday), ABC, 7.828 million; "This is Us," NBC, 7.827 million; "NCIS," CBS, 7.49 million. □

An untamed man and horse connect in 'The Mustang'

By **LINDSEY BAHR**
Associated Press

We don't find out our protagonist's name for quite some time in "The Mustang," the feature debut of French writer-director Laure de Clermont-Tonnerre. All we know at first is what we see and what Belgian actor Matthias Schoenaerts projects. A psychologist played by Connie Britton, in a brief but impactful role, tries to get a sense of

his mental state having been in and out of solitary confinement in a rural Nevada penitentiary a number of times, but he's not interested in playing along, or even trying. "I'm not good with people," growls Schoenaerts as he hits her panic button to end the session. Schoenaerts is a commanding presence, and usually a quite empathetic one in films like "Rust and Bone"



This image released by Focus Features shows Matthias Schoenaerts in a scene from "The Mustang."

Associated Press

and "A Bigger Splash," but here with a shaved head and a rage simmering beneath his nearly dead eyes, he's downright terrifying. His identity, you realize, is that of a prisoner. He doesn't think about his past, his future or his needs. He merely exists. He even rebuffs the young pregnant woman (Gideon Adlon) who comes to visit. (It's his daughter, you discover, but even that is left ambiguous for a moment).

It's not until he's assigned to manure duty as part of the correctional center's wild horse training program that a light even starts to come back on, partly because the head of the program, Myles (Bruce Dern) treats the inmates like human employees, not criminals. He even asks our protagonist his name: Roman Coleman.

The significance of naming will come back in this brief, gorgeous film about untamed and forgotten outcasts. It's probably worth mentioning here that the themes aren't exactly subtle, but that doesn't make them any less effective.

This is a real program in which inmates, many with no equine experience, tame wild horses for eventual adoption and sale to the public.

Roman, of course, takes to the craziest horse. Perhaps it's the first time he's actually felt smaller or less powerful than a living creature. And with the encouragement of a fellow inmate, Henry (the always compelling Jason Mitchell), he starts the long process of "gentling" the horse. He'll eventually even give it a name — Marquis, which he sees in a contra-

band equestrian magazine he traded for in the prison, but which he pronounces "Marcus."

There's a sin in his past that's never even alluded to, of course. It's why he's in there after all. Does no one know, you wonder? Or perhaps it's too horrific for words. It's revealed eventually, late in the film and not unlike that pivotal revelation in "Paris, Texas." Even with its unusually restrained running time, "The Mustang" is a powerful and emotional journey framed by gorgeous sun-soaked shots of the stark Nevada landscape. I just wish there was a little more character development for the supporting players, like Myles and Henry, and the prison's rotten apple Dan (Josh Stewart), who feels more like a lazy screenwriting construct than an actual part of the world we've gotten to know.

But Clermont-Tonnerre has established herself as a filmmaker to watch with "The Mustang," and has also made the most compelling case yet that Schoenaerts can not only handle an American accent, but excel with it too.

"The Mustang," a Focus Features release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association of America for "language, some violence and drug content." Running time: 96 minutes. Three stars out of four. □

Savannah reporter McClain returns in 'A Beautiful Corpse'

By **OLINE H. COGDILL**
Associated Press

"A Beautiful Corpse" (Minotaur), by Christi Daugherty. Appealing characters and an insider's look at ethical journalism in the midst of newspaper cutbacks lend a solid foundation to "A Beautiful Corpse," Christi Daugherty's second novel about Savannah reporter Harper McClain.

As she did in "The Echo Killing," Daugherty continues to delve deep into the persona of Harper who became a reporter

because of her interest in crime, spurred by her mother's murder when she was 12. She now uses her reporting skills to look into her mother's still unsolved death.

Harper had much respect for how the police handled her mother's murder, and her close relationship with them gave her an insider's view of crime investigation. That one-time in with the detectives is no more, not since Harper exposed a cop's crimes. The police department has closed its blue ranks against her,

giving her information only when mandated.

Harper could use their help as she looks into the murder of law student and bartender Naomi Scott, who was shot in the early morning in a popular tourist area. Naomi was a bright, hard-working student who was close to her father, Jerrod; her mother died when she was a child. The police soon target Naomi's boyfriend, Wilson Shepherd, also a law student who had turned his life around after teenage indiscretions. □

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HAILEY LU RICHARDSON | COLE SPROUSE
FIVE FEET APART
MON-THU 4:15 | 6:45 | 9:15
FRI 4:15 | 6:45 | 9:15 | 11:45
SAT 1:45 | 4:15 | 6:45 | 9:15 | 11:45
SUN 1:45 | 4:15 | 6:45 | 9:15 [PG-13]

BRIANNA DENSKI | JENNIFER GARNER
WONDER PARK
MON-THU 4:50 | 6:45 | 8:40
FRI 4:50 | 6:45 | 8:40 | 10:35
SAT 1:00 | 2:55 | 4:50 | 6:45 | 8:40 | 10:35
SUN 1:00 | 2:55 | 4:50 | 6:45 | 8:40 [PG]

DIRECTED BY PETER JACKSON
THEY SHALL NOT GROW OLD
MON-FRI 3:50 | 6:00
SAT-SUN 1:40 | 3:50 | 6:00 [R]

BRIE LARSON | SAMUEL L. JACKSON
CAPTAIN MARVEL
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THU & SUN 8:10
FRI-SAT 8:10 | 10:50

CXC
MON-THU 6:00 | 8:20
FRI 6:00 | 8:20 | 11:20
SAT 3:20 | 6:00 | 8:20 | 11:20
SUN 3:20 | 6:00 | 8:20

CARIBBEAN CINEMAS VIP
MON-THU 3:55 | 4:45 | 6:35 | 7:25 | 9:20
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SAT 1:15 | 2:05 | 3:55 | 4:45 | 6:35 | 7:25 | 9:20 | 10:10
SUN 1:15 | 2:05 | 3:55 | 4:45 | 6:35 | 7:25 | 9:20 | 10:10 [PG-13]

TYLER PERRY | CASSI DAVIS
A MADEA FAMILY FUNERAL
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THU & SUN 6:50 | 9:10
FRI-SAT 6:50 | 9:10 | 11:30 [PG-13]

GERARD BUTLER | CATE BLANCHETT
HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-FRI 4:55
SAT-SUN 2:40 | 4:55 [PG]

MARIA CONCHITA ALONSO
RAFAEL DE LA FUENTE
¡HE MATADO A MI MARIDO!
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Armed with affection, octogenarian is an 'octopus whisperer'

By RODRIQUE NGOWI

Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Wilson Menashi palmed a squid in his left hand and extended his arm into an aquarium tank, watching as a giant Pacific octopus stretched out arms to greet him like a friend.

Freya latched some of her 2,240 suction cups onto Menashi's arm, using their powers of taste and smell to gather information around the 84-year-old man known as the octopus whisperer — and the seafood treats he was bearing.

"She's just contacting me and she's saying, 'You come to me,'" Menashi said of Freya, a 3-year-old predator weighing 35 to 40 pounds (18 kilograms). Her arms span 14 feet (4 meters) and pack enough strength to kill sharks and other enemies.

But this afternoon's gentle interaction left no doubt that Menashi has a special way with the cephalopod, whose body includes a large, sac-like head and eight powerful arms.



In this Jan. 3, 2019, photo, 84-year-old Wilson Menashi, of Lexington, Mass., interacts with an octopus at the New England Aquarium, in Boston.

Associated Press

More than 25 years ago, Menashi retired after a career as a chemical engineer and began volunteering at the New England Aquarium in Boston. He's spent 7,800 hours — the

equivalent of about four years working full time — hanging out with octopuses, the aquarium said.

"I've been able to interact with them from the beginning. I do not know why. I

cannot explain it, but I can connect with them," Menashi said, standing in front of the Olympic Coast Sanctuary exhibit that is home to Freya and Professor Ludwig Von Drake, a younger male

giant Pacific octopus living in a separate tank.

Menashi's eyes twinkled with mischief as he acknowledged that encounters with octopus have left a mark on him.

"I will come back home sometimes with hickeys all over my arm and my neck," he said.

So how did he explain them to his wife?

"Not too difficult when you have about 10 or 15 marks next to each other," he said. "It did not take too much. She also knew where I was, anyway."

Menashi's volunteer work has included designing puzzle boxes for octopus as well as rubbing their backs and wrestling their arms, all intended to ensure that the highly intelligent animals receive the mental stimulation to thrive and stay healthy.

Two decades of working with the largest members of the octopus species has not dulled his sense of wonder at the animal's adaptability and mysteries. □

Tech and friendship at heart of Broadway's 'Be More Chill'

By JOHN CARUCCI

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Joe Iconis seems to have all the normal influences expected from a young musical theater composer.

The "Be More Chill" songsmith cites Stephen Sondheim, the songwriting team of John Kander and Fred Ebb, and William Finn as some of his favorites.

But then there's another slightly less predictable source that motivates him, too.

"I'm really inspired by 1964 World's Fair. I just like that World's Fair. It works its way into my work in strange ways," the 37-year old Iconis revealed in a recent interview.

Fans will instantly feel vibes from that long ago expo — with its celebration of the nascent Space Age and the public's first interaction with computer equipment — in Iconis' high-energy musical.

Based on the 2004 book by



This image released by Keith Sherman & Associates shows the cast during a performance of the musical "Be More Chill," in New York.

Associated Press

Ned Vizzini, "Be More Chill" tells the story of an awkward teen, played onstage by Will Roland, whose life transforms when he swallows a tiny computer that

gives him the confidence to break out of his shell. Playwright Joe Tracz wrote the book for the show.

A youthful wonder was evident inside the Lyceum

Theatre a week before the show's Broadway opening this past weekend. Befitting the World's Fair fascination of the show's composer, social media played a big

role in spreading word of the musical, which sold out off-Broadway.

Yet beyond its relatable themes, catchy tunes, and brightly colored staging lies something more old-fashioned: The longtime kinship between Iconis and one of the show's producers, Jennifer Ashley Tepper.

Tepper and Iconis have collaborated for almost a decade on musicals, concerts and other projects, including "Love in Hate Nation" and "Bloodsong of Love." "I've done Joe's shows in like basements and barns and we're kind of all taking everything we've learned together from all these years and putting it together on 'Be More Chill,'" Tepper said of their collaboration.

Iconis feels the idea of having longtime collaborators is something old, made new again.

"It's funny when people talk about it, because to me, it sounds like the most old school thing. □

Tourists turn polo players for a day in Argentina

By LUIS ANDRES HENAO

Associated Press
CAPILLA DEL SENOR, Argentina (AP) — Riding a polo horse on Argentina's Pampas grasslands, Martin Folan swings a mallet in a wide arc and hits the ball with a loud clink, slotting it between two posts to cheers of "Goal!" Not bad for his first time on a horse.

Polo has traditionally been an exclusive, glamorous sport reserved for the rich elite. But in Argentina, home to the world's top polo players, tourists can ride horses, learn from the pros how to hit the high-impact plastic ball and even play a match on a real field for less than \$200 a day.

"It was my first time on a horse and they're quite intimidating honestly for a man standing on the ground. But it was fabulous to be trotting around," Folan said as he gripped the reins atop his horse.

"I never thought I would have done this at the beginning of the day," the Londoner added.

Polo is believed to be one of the oldest team sports, dating as far back as 600 B.C. in Persia. It then spread throughout Asia and later reached Britain through India. But Argentina, with its wide plains and its rich culture of horseback riding among the Argentine cowboys known as gauchos, has gone on to dominate professional polo globally.

"Polo is played in the countryside a lot and in a much more informal way," said Juan Pablo Alessandrini, spokesman for Argentina's Polo Association. "Kids start riding horses at a very early age and they get to know polo. That's a huge advantage over other countries." There are about 3,000 registered polo players nationwide, and many more informal ones. The Argentine Polo Open Championship held annually in the Palermo neighborhood of Buenos Aires usually sells out the 14,000 seats at the stadium that is revered by many players as the cathedral of world polo.

The tourist-oriented Argen-



In this Sep. 27, 2018 photo, Stephane Buton, a polo instructor from France, foreground, takes a photo of tourists at La Carona club, Capilla del Señor, Buenos Aires province, Argentina.

Associated Press

tina Polo Day is based at La Carona Club about an hour's drive north of the country's capital. Its founder, Ruben Jabib, said the idea came to him when he owned a restaurant just blocks from the Palermo polo grounds in Buenos Aires and he would often meet tourists interested in the sport.

He used two outdoor fields and built an indoor field so tourists with no previous experience can play year-round under all weather conditions. The polo day package also includes

transportation, wine and a traditional Argentine barbecue.

Other clubs offer similar polo day services, but for the most part, the "sport of kings" is often played by the super-wealthy at upscale villas and resorts.

"What we did was to make polo informal," Jabib said. "Before this, people needed a groom, a horse and stables. Here, I provide them with everything — helmets, boots, horses — and they're ready to play." On a recent day, French polo instructor Stephane

Buton was teaching a group from Britain, Russia, Iceland and United States how to hit the ball with the mallet. Nearby, a group of ponies neighed and splashed in a pond, cooling off after a game.

"Is this different for the English because they drive their horses on the left," Jon MacLeod, 74, from Seattle, Washington, joked, causing the group to break into laughter.

His brother-in-law, Jed Hulsey, 62, from Newport Beach, California, swung the mallet like a pendulum

with a whoosh.

"I play golf and I play tennis and I like to swing rackets. I think this is kind of similar in a way," Hulsey said. "Though (adding) riding a horse to the equation makes it a little bit different, more fun." The sport is sometimes referred to as field hockey on horseback. But Nacho Figueras, the Argentine polo star, says it's more like playing golf during an earthquake.

During the lesson, Buton explained that a game usually consists of six 7-minute periods called chukkas. The tourists took turns ringing a bell signaling the end of a chukka while they watched club players battle it out at a breathtaking pace in a practice game.

"It's very strange because I always thought that polo was for the very rich, the aristocrats," said Alina Gorlino from St. Petersburg, Russia. "I thought even to come to Argentina, it would be impossible to see polo because you'd have to be a member of a club. So for me, it's very pleasant to be able to see it, and it's another pleasure to be able to play."

During lunch, Jabib, the club owner, joked that his club is so informal that while British polo clubs might own pedigreed Russell terriers, he takes pride in a pack of friendly mutts who wait beneath the table for tourists to throw them a bone.

"If you want to learn polo, you have to come to Argentina. It's much more accessible, it's much more grass-roots polo," said James Margetson, 22, from London, who came to the club on a six-month internship. He helps take care of horses in exchange for polo lessons.

"The problem with polo in England is that it can be very niche. It can be very hard to get into the right clubs, and it's very expensive," he said. "In Argentina, you can be a cowboy, with four, five horses and rock up and play a polo game." After lunch, the group put on knee pads and head protection and got ready to saddle a horse. □



In this Sep. 27, 2018 photo, Martin Folan of London hits the ball during a polo practice at La Carona club, Capilla del Señor, Buenos Aires province, Argentina.

Associated Press